

# Maclean's

Canada's Weekly Newsmagazine

August 9, 1999

**THE MILITARY:**  
An investigation  
begins

**CANADIAN WINE:**  
Reaching for the top

A man and a woman are lying in bed. The man is on the left, looking towards the camera with a neutral expression. The woman is on the right, wearing a blue silk dress, looking away from the camera and holding an open book. They are both propped up on large grey pillows.

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## Managing Editor



## What can it all possibly mean?

The trouble with elections is that the bulletins are barely counted and the winners declared before the pundits, spin doctors and others of like ilk weigh in with their analyses of what the election really means and what its outcome really portends. And because it is their mission, they find meaning and patterns even where, in many instances, none exist.

If it were not for these armchair experts, we might be lulled into thinking that last week's Nova Scotia election was just that: a provincial election. An election in which the voters—in the absence of any outstanding issues—decided to trade a minority Liberal government led by a small-town lawyer for a majority Conservative one led by a small-town doctor (page 16).

The pundits, naturally, read much more into the outcome. Nova Scotians, we are told, handed Jean Charest's Liberals a huge rebuff—by leaving Newfoundland as the only province that still has a Liberal administration. And, coming as it did on the back of the election of a Tory government in New Brunswick and the re-election of

one in Ontario, we are advised, the Nova Scotians were sent a warning that the Liberals can expect big trouble in the next federal election. In parallel, when there are losses there must be winners. So the winners were declared: federal Conservative leader Joe Clark (who took a low even though his involvement was minuscule in Nova Scotia and New Brunswick and non-existent in Ontario), and even *Postcross* Manning (whose Reform party was not involved in the recent provincial elections).

In fact, Canadians are caring voters. They know their best assurance of getting their blood buzzed on both sides is to elect politicians of competing stripes to Parliament and the legislature. It does not follow, however, that a change of government in a province has any bearing on victory or defeat in the federal level. Consider Ontario, which plays the balancing act better than most. In 1993, with an NDP government in Queen's Park, Charest's Liberals won 98 of Ontario's 99 federal seats. Two years later, in an upset of Nova Scotia proportions, Ontarians elected Mike Harris and a majority

Tory government. In 1997, the federal Liberals won 100 of the 103 seats in the province. And this year, the Harris Conservatives won another majority—which, if it means anything, suggests the Liberals may have little to worry about in Ontario when the next federal election rolls around.

This explanation will be too simple to work in parallel, but it seems to me that Nova Scotians did what they did because they were tired of the stress of minority government and turned off by the confessional campaigns waged by the Liberal and NDP leaders. They wanted fix calm and stability to John Harris, a thoughtful and career family doctor who got into politics almost by accident and seems the architect of an ambitious policies. Harris reminds many Nova Scotians of Robert Stanfield, who works with August I. Macdonald in the most beloved premier the province has ever had. Harris may not be another Stanfield, but if he is anything like him, Nova Scotia will have little cause for complaint.

## Newsroom Notes

## Talking about sex

When *Life* Editor James Doonan and Senior Writer Patricia Chisholm set out to prepare this week's cover package on "Sex & marriage" (page 22), they knew their biggest problem would be to persuade couples to talk candidly about the sex—or lack of it—in their lives. Although sex permeates popular culture today, individuals are so reluctant to

ever to discuss their own experiences. Yet, as Doonan notes, most experts agree that sex is a vital component in healthy



Chisholm (left) with Doonan, Underwood, Doonan, and another

marriage. Chisholm, who wrote the main story, is married with two children. "For most people," she says, "sex will distinguish marriage from every other relationship and it deserves as much care and nurturing as any other part of family life."

Also contributing to the project were Vancouver Bureau Chief Chris Wood, Associate Editor Susan McGlelland and correspondents Naomi Underwood and Ruth Asherley. Photo Editor Peter Bragg shot the cover picture while Art Director Nick Buzone designed the package.





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While it may not be common thought of as an exercise machine, the humble appliance pictured above is just one of several you probably already own that can contribute to a larger healthier life. In fact, regular yardwork like gardening, mowing – or anything that gets you out and active – can improve a lot more than just your property value. Get moving for 30 minutes a day most days of the week and before long you'll find you have more energy for all sorts of activities. Some of them even fun! After all, you're not the sort to let any grass grow under your feet.

Shaping a  
Healthier  
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## The Mail

was on another. Not just novels but first novels by Anne Michaels, Anne-Marie MacDonald, Kim Sakamoto, Patrick Kavanagh and three or four others are all steadily available in the bookstores, not to mention everything by Atwood, Davies, Ondaatje, Shields, Munro, Giller and so on. The poet Anne Carson is more famous here than in Canada. Very little of this was true eight years ago. Now, Quebecor Printing Inc. has bought an American firm to become the biggest printer in the world ("A printer second to none," Business Notes, July 26). Given all this, and much more, I was flabbergasted at the pervasive tone of negativity in the July 5 issue ("Say it with us, Cover). Canada has a growing presence in the world and Canadians need to realize what is happening out there. James Pollack, Houston

## Wrestling and reality

Bob Levin's excellent essay on the World Wrestling Federation was right on ("A groin-grub for ratings," July 26). It is amusing what TSN can categorize as "sports entertainment" when dictated by the almighty dollar. What is puzzling is the number of adults who take pleasure in this form of entertainment, what is disturbing is the number of children who are following in their footsteps.

John Olson, Abbotsford, B.C.

Your article on the WWF showed extreme ignorance and lack of research. The WWF does not try to market to children. They make it clear it is for people who understand that it is entertainment. The WWF does not pretend that professional wrestling is real, or that it isn't planned or choreographed. These are mindless athletes, who deserve more credit than you give. I'm 15 years old and I've been watching since I was 8. I understand that I shouldn't do those moves. My parents explained the difference between reality and entertainment to me.

Julian Ridd, Toronto



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SAVOUR  
BUT A SIP OF  
HONOUR  
THAN HAVE  
MY FILL OF  
COMPROMISE.

ANNO 1366  
STELLA  
ARTOIS  
LEUVEN BELGIUM



## Notes

## The triumphs and travails of a Canadian banker

**Announcing last winter** that he was stepping down from his job as chairman and CEO of Bank of Montreal, dashing millionaire banker Matthew Barrett explained he needed a break from the business and a chance to spend more time in the company of his gorgeous second wife, Woodbridge, Ont.-born jet-setter Anne-Marie Stern. After a lifetime in business, the 54-year-old Barrett said he was planning to "enjoy the roses."

Last week, British giant Barclays Bank PLC lured Barrett out of early retirement by offering him one of the biggest jobs in international banking—presuping the other-banged, silver-tinged Irishman to say that he has not changed his plans, just his venue: "I'm going to attend the roses in Hyde Park," he told reporters during a conference call from Barclays' London headquarters. As chief executive of the world's 13th-largest bank, Barrett will face greater competitive challenges than ever. He will also make a lot more money—



Stern and Barrett at their wedding. Barclays chairman Sir Peter Brabeck-Letford and his wife CEO (left), greater challenges than ever



\$6 million a year in base salary, which bonus and stock options could raise to \$14 million, compared with the paltry \$945,000 (plus \$3.5 million in extras) he received in his last year at Bank of Montreal.

Barrett acknowledged, however, that his domestic life has not fared as well as his career.

Heard Stern, 44—who has spent most of the year in Monaco and was spotted recently on the arm of another man in London—have been legally separated for several months after less than two years of marriage. In October, Barrett will be moving to England alone. How long he's likely to stay that way is another matter. Toronto's Robert Gage, headhunter to the social elite, says the buzz in his sales focuses on the again eligible banker. "Across Canada," says Gage, "there are women leaving firms and booking flights to London."

## Champion rower rocks the boat

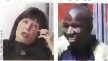
**When rower Murray McBreen** takes people back to his job as one of Canada's most decorated amateur athletes, and having put his intensity where his heart is—by giving some of his own sponsorship income to help fund his team. So last week, when the 31-year-old Torontoan scored direct hits on two of Canada's most noted Olympic figures, the repercussions were felt throughout the Pan-American Games village in Winnipeg.

Her first target was sponsor Donovan Bailey, the 1996 100-m champion, who refused an invitation to run the event in Winnipeg even though he was paid a reported \$200,000 to promote the Games. McBreen and Bailey should donate the money to athletes who are competing and reacted about the Games, "because obviously he's not." Bailey, who ran the opening leg for Canada's second-place 4 x 100 relay team, pointed out that his fee for far promotional work, not for training, and said McBreen didn't have all the facts.

Canadian Olympic Association head Cassal Anne Lethbrun was the next to feel the sting from McBreen's sharp tongue. Critics say that during Lethbrun's tenure, the distrust between athletes and the COA has grown. When informed that Lethbrun had de-



McBreen; Lethbrun (below left); Bailey (below right); about last on noted Olympic figures



clined to lose her COA post when her term expired in 2002, McBreen quipped: "What's she waiting for?" To cap an eventful week, McBreen won the women's single sculls at the Pan-Am. It added another gold medal to her collection—and even more close-

## Passages

**Retiring:** Buffalo Sabres all-star goaltender Dominik Hasek, 34, in Prague. Hasek will play one more NHL season before returning home with his family to the Czech Republic. Widely considered the NHL's top goalie of the 1990s, Hasek helped the Sabres reach the Stanley Cup finals in June. In London, Detroit Lions running back Barry Sanders, 31, also announced his retirement. In his case, it



was immediate. The NFL's second all-time leading rusher with 15,269 yards, Sanders made the Pro Bowl in each of his 10 seasons in the league, all with Detroit.

**Died:** Author and former Jesuit priest Malachi Tordella Martin, 78, of a heart attack in Manhattan. The Vatican scholar and staunch traditionalist who wrote serious treatises on the Devil. Sex Scrolls also penned best-selling thrillers about the Roman Catholic Church.

**Died:** Paul Leduc, 68, the Yukon's first senator, of bone marrow cancer, in Ottawa. He was mayor of Whitehorse in 1975 when, after a constitutional amendment created Senate seats for the territory, Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau appointed him to the upper house.

**Died:** Black activist Elberta Gittens Roach, 72, of heart failure, in Toronto. Along with her husband, prominent Toronto lawyer Charles Roach, she was a founding member of the Toronto Caribbean festival in 1966.

**Arrested:** Former Guns N' Roses lead guitarist Slash (Harris), 34, better known by his stage name Slash, for allegedly beating his live-in girlfriend in West Hollywood, Calif. Harris was released after posting \$75,000 bail.

**Resigned:** Former actress Glenda Jackson, 63, as a junior minister in British Prime Minister Tony Blair's Labour government, in London. The two-time Academy Award winner announced that she will run in next year's election for mayor of London.

## Best-Sellers

Fiction	nonfiction	nonfiction	nonfiction
1. <b>SHARDIA</b> , Patricia Briggs (B)	1. <b>ENIGMA</b> , Frederick Forsyth (H)	1. <b>ENIGMA</b> , Frederick Forsyth (H)	1. <b>ENIGMA</b> , Frederick Forsyth (H)
2. <b>WHITE GUARDIAN</b> , David Faith (C)	2. <b>SHARDIA</b> , Patricia Briggs (B)	2. <b>SHARDIA</b> , Patricia Briggs (B)	2. <b>SHARDIA</b> , Patricia Briggs (B)
3. <b>SHARDIA</b> , Patricia Briggs (B)	3. <b>SHARDIA</b> , Patricia Briggs (B)	3. <b>SHARDIA</b> , Patricia Briggs (B)	3. <b>SHARDIA</b> , Patricia Briggs (B)
4. <b>THE RETURNING COMPANY</b> , David Faith (C)	4. <b>SHARDIA</b> , Patricia Briggs (B)	4. <b>SHARDIA</b> , Patricia Briggs (B)	4. <b>SHARDIA</b> , Patricia Briggs (B)
5. <b>SHARDIA</b> , Patricia Briggs (B)	5. <b>SHARDIA</b> , Patricia Briggs (B)	5. <b>SHARDIA</b> , Patricia Briggs (B)	5. <b>SHARDIA</b> , Patricia Briggs (B)
6. <b>SHARDIA</b> , Patricia Briggs (B)	6. <b>SHARDIA</b> , Patricia Briggs (B)	6. <b>SHARDIA</b> , Patricia Briggs (B)	6. <b>SHARDIA</b> , Patricia Briggs (B)
7. <b>SHARDIA</b> , Patricia Briggs (B)	7. <b>SHARDIA</b> , Patricia Briggs (B)	7. <b>SHARDIA</b> , Patricia Briggs (B)	7. <b>SHARDIA</b> , Patricia Briggs (B)
8. <b>SHARDIA</b> , Patricia Briggs (B)	8. <b>SHARDIA</b> , Patricia Briggs (B)	8. <b>SHARDIA</b> , Patricia Briggs (B)	8. <b>SHARDIA</b> , Patricia Briggs (B)
9. <b>SHARDIA</b> , Patricia Briggs (B)	9. <b>SHARDIA</b> , Patricia Briggs (B)	9. <b>SHARDIA</b> , Patricia Briggs (B)	9. <b>SHARDIA</b> , Patricia Briggs (B)
10. <b>SHARDIA</b> , Patricia Briggs (B)	10. <b>SHARDIA</b> , Patricia Briggs (B)	10. <b>SHARDIA</b> , Patricia Briggs (B)	10. <b>SHARDIA</b> , Patricia Briggs (B)

1. Data on file. Compiled by Peter Berman

## How poverty destroys health care

**For 15 years**, Harvard professor, physician and anthropologist Paul Farmer has battled AIDS in rural Haiti and drug-resistant tuberculosis in Peruvian slums. His book *Islands and Inlandness* (University of California Press) offers a radical diagnosis of emerging epidemics. Too often, Farmer writes, Western health authorities ascribe the images of infectious diseases to cultural or environmental factors. But he argues the root of poverty that devastates whole health-care systems by making new drugs prohibitively expensive or by putting advanced equipment out of commission for years at a time. The developed nations can and must do something about that, Farmer argues, if only through self-interest, as pathogens continue to flourish in a shrinking world.

## Pop Movies

1. <b>THE MACHINIST</b> (13/13)	1. <b>THE MACHINIST</b> (13/13)
2. <b>THE MACHINIST</b> (13/13)	2. <b>THE MACHINIST</b> (13/13)
3. <b>THE MACHINIST</b> (13/13)	3. <b>THE MACHINIST</b> (13/13)
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8. <b>THE MACHINIST</b> (13/13)	8. <b>THE MACHINIST</b> (13/13)
9. <b>THE MACHINIST</b> (13/13)	9. <b>THE MACHINIST</b> (13/13)
10. <b>THE MACHINIST</b> (13/13)	10. <b>THE MACHINIST</b> (13/13)

This report is based on data collected according to box office receipts during the seven days that ended on July 29. (It includes numbers of theaters weeks showing.)

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## Comic relief

**Mystery Men** is a superhero movie with a difference—in comic fighters have only second-rate superpowers. But with spectacular special effects, clever comedy and a stellar ensemble cast—including Janeane Garofalo in *The Bowler*—the film is first-rate fun.



## Explorer

## Digital driving

Now, for the driver who refuses to ask for directions, even when hopelessly lost, comes a car navigation and information system from Alpine Electronics of Canada. Starting at \$3,200, it includes a laptop-size computer, a CD-ROM drive, a global positioning system receiver and antenna, and a 12- or 14-cm colour monitor for displaying digitalized maps. The monitor, which is attached to a control panel, can be in-

serted into the dashboard radio slot. With a hand-held antenna, users can input their destination by address, intersection or point of interest—such as Niagara Falls—and ask the system to find the shortest route, or to design one that loops them off the highway as much as possible.

The moving vehicle's position is constantly updated and depicted on a map displayed on the monitor. Voice prompts warn of coming turns and, in case of a miss, the system automatically designs an alternate route. Digital maps of the continental United States, based on nine compact discs, contain all federal and state highways, as well as county roads. The discs also include detailed street-level maps for most large American cities. In Canada, only the Greater Toronto Area has such a map, but Alpine plans to expand across the country starting with Vancouver, Calgary, Edmonton and Montreal.

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## From PC to TV

A device called the All-in-Wonder 128 graphics and on—according to the company that created it—turns a PC into a “multimedia powerhouse,” all by itself. ATI Technologies Inc. of Thornhill, Ont., may be oversteering in claims, but not by much. The All-in-Wonder is an add-on circuit board, which retails for about \$300 and must be installed inside a PC. It contains several on-board slots: one for a television cable, a camcorder or a VCR and to display images from these sources on the monitor and manipulate the camera. Someone watching a hockey game could, just by hitting a couple of keys, enlarge the image of the goalie and set so it fills the entire screen. Or footage of key plays could be frozen on-screen and stored on the computer's hard drive to create a personal photo archive.

Camcorder footage—of a new arrival in the family, perhaps—can be shown on the monitor. At that point, the All-in-Wonder allows users to take digital still photos from the moving images, store them as an electronic file on the PC, and then e-mail them to friends and relatives anytime for their fun baby shots. And no need to add “Photos do not burn.”

## Backstage



## Anthony Wilson-Smith

## Shaking up Canadian music

A couple of weeks ago, Allan Gregg was playing in a golf tournament in which participants were asked to talk about themselves. Each player dramatically gave their name and tried to sound suitably modest about their achievements. “And what do you do, Mr. Gregg?” someone finally asked so he maintained uncharacteristic silence. “Whatever I choose,” was the immediate reply.

On occasion, he sometimes says “as little as possible”—Gregg often put answer to that query, depending on mood. The truth is he is never at a loss for clever words—often punners—or new projects. In the past two decades, the 47-year-old Gregg has achieved fame for occupations that include poetiser (including his annual survey for *Maclean's*), Progressive Conservative political adviser, talk-show host on Ontario's TVO, executive with a multinational conglomerate, and manager of the rock band the Tragically Hip.

Now, add the title of CEO of Song Corp., a new Toronto-based company that aims to be Canada's first independent music producer focused on developing and producing Canadian artists. With a \$13-million underwriting from Toronto's Yorkton Securities, Gregg and four partners will take the company public this fall. The partners represent performers ranging from the Irish Rovers to pop artist Marcie to the a cappella group the Nylons, and own a song catalogue with more than 4,000 titles. In two years, Gregg says cheerily, the company's revenue “should top \$40 million—and we're not including international sales.”

One wonder of Gregg's fast-talking, high-octane manner is the ease with which he makes ideas that previously sounded implausible seem eminently logical. It's a talent based at part poetiser for the federal Tories, where he was the only male sporting double-length hair, an earring, and moustache, jeans and a hot pink sports jacket. Add his like language, even-temper and gravelly voice, and the package was clearly out of place in a party accustomed to *gimmicks*, Oxford shoes and the practice of sending shirts out to get *stuffed*. But inevitably, Gregg would lose the crowd spellbound with his views on how to conduct Tory policy. As one minister remarked after a typical brovian performance: “I don't understand a thing the w-o-b says—but I believe in him.”

The same phenomenon seems to have occurred on Boy Street: Music and money managers are seldom a comfortable combination or a business that relies on the uncertain creative process is considered too unreliable. So when Gregg started approaching investment firms about a year ago, they looked at him, he says, “like you're faced with lightning.” It was only with Yorkton, whose CEO, Scott Patterson, is 35

years old, that “someone understood the potential of what we were talking about.”

Compared with the film business, Gregg insists, the music industry is a bargain, spending a fraction as much on development and promotion of products. As well, multinational companies, with their huge overhead costs, often don't bother with artists who sell less than a million records because artists on investment are too small. Canada's Cowboy Junkies, for example, were recently dropped by their label because they sell hundreds of thousands of copies of their albums. By contrast, says Gregg, his smaller company “can make money with bands selling much less.” He dismisses suggestions that record companies face a perilous future because of technology that allows computer users to download music from the Internet. No matter the format, he says, “international copyrights on music will be protected—everyone has too much at stake for that to not happen.” In fact, Gregg is hatching schemes to use the Web in new ways. Maclean's, for example, models Ron's clothing, so his next album might offer \$1 off the recording to people who order it through Ron's Web site.

In some ways, that is a return to Gregg's roots. As a boy in Edmonton in the late 1950s, he and his late father, Ray, a clothing salesman at Eaton's, spent hours listening to artists like Fats Domino and Elvis Presley. Gregg learned guitar and sang on the folk-music circuit while in university. In his career, he brought Led Zeppelin to town for a \$1,750 fee just as the band was becoming known. His success as poetiser—he began with the *Toronto Star*—led him elsewhere, but he kept an ear on the music business, overseeing the Tragically Hip since 1987. After the sale of Gregg's polling company, Decima Inc., in 1989 to United States-based Hill and Knowlton, for \$28 million, Gregg stayed on for another four years, and then became president of Viacom Canada, a subsidiary of the world's third-largest entertainment company.

But in recent years, he became *musical*, signing “open for me, there's a limit on how much golf a man can play”—though that's a claim some dispute. Behind the flip air, there's something real. Gregg, the father of three children and guardian to a loved niece, lost his beloved wife, Marjorie, to cancer, in March, 1995. He was devastated. Now he is settled in a relationship—and in his new business, gambling happily that he has “just taken 39 breaking meetings in 39 heading off clients in the past seven days.” Life is, he says, in a moment of come-fine-and-consider, “now only worth living for the first time in years.” And the Canadian music business is about to shake, rattle and roll.



# Legacy of a Sick War

By John Godden

Everybody agrees it was a dirty job. When Canadian peacekeepers arrived in Croatia in 1993, many had to work near abandoned industrial sites destroyed during the war that had torn apart the old Yugoslavia. Some got covered in reddish grit while filling sandbags. Others recall that the locally supplied bottled water was often cloudy. Last week, Defence Minister Art Eggleton and Chief of Defence Staff Gen. Maurice Baril established a board of inquiry to look into claims that gritty conditions left some peacekeepers chronically ill—and how a doctor's note warning of possible exposure to toxic substances came to be removed from the medical records of up to 1,000 soldiers. But many of those who served in Croatia are skeptical that the inquiry answers their health worries are finally being taken seriously by the top brass. "I'm sorry I didn't get my leg blown off on the beaches of Normandy," says Kelly Carter of Calgary, who was a mortar corporal in Croatia and is now retired from the army. "But there are new types of injuries they are going to have to learn to deal with."

Baril has promised that answers will come soon. The board expects to discover who altered medical records, and make the findings public in an interim report in October. A final report might take a few more months. But some embittered mil-

itary-life veterans doubt the inquiry will get to the bottom of the controversy. "I certainly don't trust the military to investigate itself," says Sean Berckmidge, a former army medic in Calgary who served as a radio operator in Croatia. Opposition politicians, too, are demanding outside investigators. On the inquiry's other key aim—finding out if soldiers were exposed to toxic hazards—political pressure will be less intense but the scientific challenge is daunting. Doctors have been stymied in the past when faced with trying to sort out the

*Carter at home in Calgary. Eggleton on his way to a cabinet meeting (top), the problems from the Croatian cleanup were flagged a year ago but investigators were too busy to deal with them*



he was prosecutor in a controversial court martial of Lt. Col. Eric Smith, a military doctor and key figure in the health controversy. But Marsh shows no inclination to bail out of the mission. Briefing at the suggestion that he could not properly probe a process in which he played a small part, he vowed to follow his investigation wherever it leads—even if his findings cause embarrassment to senior offices in department of national defence headquarters in Ottawa. In a brief interview with *Maclean's*, he predicted that "central agencies" of the Canadian Forces will have some explaining to do. Marsh downplayed the importance of documents, released to the Reform party under the Access to Information Act, that have prompted speculation that a military lawyer in Calgary might have given the key advice to remove the notes from soldiers' medical files. He believes the final decision must have come from higher up. "I would

## With medical notes missing, the military investigates itself and a mystery malady

comes of chronic arthralgia syndrome associated with troops who came home from tough overseas assignments like Vietnam and the Persian Gulf.

The inquiry's credibility was being questioned within minutes of its first meeting, being announced at a July 29 news conference. Col. Howard Marsh, the officer named to lead the board, turned out to be one link in the long chain of delays and indecision that left itself apologising for the military's handling of the affair up to now. Questioned about when he learned of the issue, Marsh said he was told about it by Col. Jim Calvin in late May 1998. Calvin commanded Canadian peacekeepers in Croatia and later wrote an internal memo mixing both the health question and his own grave concerns about the apparent slacking of medical records. About three months after his chat with Calvin, Marsh took over as the army's overseas inspector, but said that for a few months he was too busy to look into what Calvin had told him.

The panel's legal counsel, Lt.-Col. Roger Stron, resigned citing a conflict of interest—

surmise that it came from a central agency," Marsh said, suggesting the top medical official at the Forces is possible target for investigation. "If it goes to the surgeon general, that's where I'll go."

Marsh clearly has his branches. But he also arranges that the task ahead of him is far from straightforward. After all, the facts of the case stretch back more than six years; the mud is old and the players are scattered. The saga began in 1993, when soldiers from the Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry were sent to Croatia. In June, 1994, Smith, then senior medical officer with the peacekeeping contingent, was worried enough to note in a report his concerns about polydimethylsiloxane, or PCBs, that had leaked out of ruined electrical transformers in an old industrial plant where Canadian troops were deployed. By early 1995, Smith was warning that a note he put in soldiers' files warning that they had been exposed to PCBs as well as asbestos—the mixture of minerals that is the main source of aluminium, and that was used to fill sandbags. Other officers persuaded Smith to ask his original

## The red dust from the bauxite was everywhere— 'soldiers lived in it, slept in it, ate their lunches in it'

working on "exposure" to "potential exposure." Some time later, the note was removed entirely from many files.

The order to take out the note—whoever issued it—may well turn out to be indefensible. But that does not mean the substance of Smith's warning was grounded in solid science. Some leading experts take issue with his assumptions. Much attention has focused on the now-infamous bauxite-filled sandbags, the source of the red dust that one military report says covered some soldiers for weeks on end while they served in Croatia. "They lived in it, slept in it, ate their lunches in it," says Reform defence critic Art Hanger. Some say unpleasant, but not necessarily harmful. Dr. Graham Gibbs, an Edmonton epidemiologist who has studied health risks in the aluminum industry, says bauxite poses no special threat. "There have been a sufficient number of cases involved in bauxite mining around the world that if there were indications of these kind of effects, we would have heard about them," Gibbs says.

Canadians are more attuned to the notion that PCBs are extremely dangerous. Many remember the uproar when a transport truck spilled PCBs on the Trans-Canada Highway near Kemmer, Ont., in 1985, and the panic when a warehouse full of stored PCBs exploded into flames in Saint-Jovite-le-Grand, Que., in 1988. His Prof. Allan Okey, chairman of the University of Toronto's pharmacology department and an expert on toxic substances, says studies have not shown any clear health risk beyond a skin condition similar to acne, among industrial workers who were routinely exposed to PCBs for decades before the substance was banned in 1979. "The majority of the published research doesn't really support the notion of a high degree of toxicity," he says.

Okey suggests one way to give soldiers quick answers—and perhaps peace of mind—would be to order immediate blood tests. He estimates that for \$1,000 to \$2,000 per person, the army could find out if pesticides they served in Croatia have higher than normal PCB levels. There is a strong chance the findings would be reassuring. Okey says that merely being near a PCB spill, which seems to have been the case in Croatia, suggests no reason to suspect the soldiers ingested much of the chemical. "From what I know of the situation, it is unlikely there has been sufficient exposure to constitute a major health problem," he said.

Still, even those who doubt PCBs and bauxite are the culprits are not discounting the possibility of genuine health problems. Okey said military zones are notorious for

combining "the stress of combat, with infectious diseases, with the possibility of a lot of different chemicals." Matt Shephard of Scarborough, Ont., a former platoon sergeant officer who served in Croatia, insists the effects are all too real. He says he has lost most of the vision in his right eye and suffers pain and swelling of his joints, and knows of about 50 other soldiers who were in Croatia who now con-



Martin (left) with David, the solution to part of the problem

plain of similar symptoms. Many others, like Carter and Brockbridge, feel fine now, but worry about the future. As well, RCMP Const. Tom Dolan, one of 250 Canadians who served in Croatia in the same unit as the military peacekeepers, went public last week with his concern that pain in his arms might be related to the 16 soldiers he reported. The RCMP launched its own review of the situation, and a member of the national police force was added to Martin's inquiry board as an observer.

Martin dismissed PCBs and bauxite as likely "red herrings" for his inquiry. But he vividly described how conditions in Croatia in 1993 provided plenty of other candidates for causing future poor health. "It is fully possible that it is the scorching earth, the burning human flesh, the burning animals, it is the blown up sewers, it is the downed munitions, it is the upcoming shells, that have created a toxic soup in the air," he said. But then, the soldiers already know what they faced in the field. What they want to find out is what went on back home in the filing cabinets. ■



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The new premier taking a peek through his office window, no joke

political," explains Thérèse Arseneau, a political scientist at Saint Mary's University in Halifax. "But John Hamm resonated with people on this campaign."

So did his platform. The party's premier focus groups said voters wanted to see a campaign featuring specifics rather than vague pledges. So, just days after the vote was dropped, Hamm released his Plan for Nova Scotia: 203 promises spanning everything from balancing the budget and cutting taxes within four

years to shutting down money-losing Sydney Steel Corp. In contrast, MacElin was busy defending his filled budget while Robert Chisholm, the photogenic NDP leader, dodged and weaved with no policy-specific commitments. During the leader's debate, Chisholm and MacElin went on the attack. Hamm, trying to focus on substance, sometimes appeared old and off-balance.

The polls, though, showed his plodding, awkward style was winning a church after the June 14 debate, the Grin had slipped to third place, leaving the other two parties to fight it out for the lead. And Conservative strategists had always welcomed a head-to-head between Chisholm and Hamm. The reason, they felt, their leader seemed a nice, safe alternative for voters who were weary of the Liberals, but wary of the prospect of an NDP premier—particularly one who had led to a reporter to observe a drink-driving conviction he had at the age of 19. "With the exception of one or two small glitches," explained one key Tory campaign strategist, "we stayed with our plan and it went off just the way we hoped."

Earning people's trust is something that comes easy for the new premier. In Pictou County, which was settled by Highland Scots some 225 years ago, he is still *Diosc* Hamm, the man who spearheaded a campaign to raise \$7 million for the local hospital. Now a resident of Stellerton, Hamm has been a pillar of the local Anglican Church and a star fundraiser at the local Highland Games who later took over the co-management

of New Glasgow's senior hockey team. "What you see is what you get with John," says Bill MacNeil, a local theme-park owner who has known Hamm since grade school. "There is no guile."

No flak either. Hamm's idea of decadence is pouring himself a big lime rickety and sitting down on Saturday night to watch his beloved Montreal Canadiens on television. Can he always have his one crutch—he once owned a cherry-red 1967 Ferrari as well as a convertible Corvette and a vintage Mercedes—but nowadays he seems content to drive a half-ton pickup and a North American sedan. He and his wife, Geneva, live in a pleasant brick house among the other local doctors, lawyers and Sobey's executives who make up Stellerton's upper crust (their three children are full-grown). He is known as an unpretentious guy who likes to jog and craft furniture in his garage, but who works too hard to take

1993, election. Hamm managed to squeak in by 475 votes. But his experience in the legislature were gone; the Conservatives were rudderless after Cameron's resignation, while Hamm himself was in pain and wearing a cervical collar after a neck injury. In 1995, the party finally decided to choose a new leader. Hamm questioned whether he had the desire or ability for the job. "If I remain for one party appeal, I would have been prepared to work with him in pain," he now says. "But the message did not show up." So he ran—and ended up victorious.

His quiet approach baffled those caucus members who expected an aggressive leader, loudly critical of the government. But during the 1996 provincial election, Hamm's performance in the leadership debate—the altered MacElin far seven long seconds by asking him if he would resign should his party fail to balance the

## John Hamm comes from behind to lead his Nova Scotia Conservatives to a majority government

vision or visit the small salmon-fishing lodge he owns with a couple of friends on the St. Marys River.

Timing has been everything in his political career. Hamm grew up in a Tory-leaning household on New Glasgow's west side. But he had never given a thought to running for office before then Premier Donald Cameron asked him in 1992 to consider joining for the Pictou Centre nomination. At that point, Hamm was looking for a change—and a new way to make a contribution to society—after more than 30 years of practicing medicine. "I believed in the things he talked about, like fiscal responsibility and making government more open to the people," he recalls of Cameron. "But I said to him, 'I don't know if I can be a politician. I'll run, but this is not a long-term commitment—even if I'm successful.'"

It was baptism by fire. Unable to distance themselves from the scandal-ridden years of former Conservative premier John Buchanan, Cameron's Tories lost all but one of their 26 seats to John Savage's Liberals swept into power in the May 25,

budget—helped the party to a better-than-expected showing at the ballot box (MacElin's Liberals were relegated to a minority government). Moreover, it was a turning point for Hamm, who now controlled the government's fate. And in late June, he voted with the New Democrats against the government's June 1 budget.

One of the new premier's first acts will be to build bridges with Cape Breton, where the Tories' stand on closing Sydney Steel has left them with just a single seat. Last week, he was already laying the groundwork for the September budget that will give Nova Scotians the first true reassessment of their new premier. Hamm considers himself a self-joy—a socially progressive, yet fiscally conservative. He knows he will have to make some tough decisions to meet his goal of balancing the books by 2003. "My own critic is the guy that looks at me every morning, when I shave," he says. "If I can satisfy that critic, that will keep me going." The words sound easy. But when Cameron resigned—and perhaps more reluctantly—premier status then, they just might be true. ■

A call for nominations

## Do you know a rising star in your community?

Maclean's invites readers to nominate people for a special year-end report on Canada's up-and-comers. The ideal candidates are either students or relatively early in their careers in addition to demonstrating excellence in at least one field, they have shown concern for the public good in their work achievements or their spare time.

Submissions should contain some details of the candidate's achievements, contact numbers and at least one other reference.

Please do not nominate family members.

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WANT MATTERS TO CANADIAN

By John DeMont

Angel's Roost is a small, one residence for graduate students at King's College in Halifax. Sharing those rooms back in 1961 were two young Nova Scotians whose lives and careers were destined to intersect in a major way: a law graduate from Sydney named Russell MacElin and John Hamm, then in a radical school, who grew up in the farming and mining town of New Glasgow. Anyone who remembers them back then says they were a study in contrast: MacElin, an earnest doctor's son who directed campus theatrical productions; Hamm, two years older, an athletic scholar with an infectious, booming laugh who used to drive around Halifax in a white Triumph convertible. But they still participated in sports and invariably found themselves part of the same late-night sessions that moved from room to room. "There was a bond that was created then," Hamm, now 61, recalled last week. "Russell was a friend. We always had a good relationship."

Up to a point. Hamm's sparkling elo-

quency upon last week may well have disguised his old pal and leader of the pro-conservative Liberal to the political junk heap. The premier-elect, after all, was seen to be containing political suicide when he and his Conservatives voted against the MacElin government's budget last month, triggering an un-awaited summer election with the party a distant third in the polls. Instead, the Tories walked home with 29 seats, leaving the New Democrats—down 12 seats from 19—wondering where their support went on voting day, and MacElin, his caucus reduced to 11 from 19, pondering his future.

It was a campaign that began slowly, with elevated talk of issues and principles, but later produced a heated debate that degenerated into a shouting match, leaked campaign records, nasty attack ads and naked attempts to play one region off the province off against the other. By the end, the race seemed better suited to bare-knuckle brawlers than a white-haired silver-milk-drinking country doctor whose lovely looks and avo-cado-mustache evoked Jimmy Stewart in *My Darling Genie* at Wolveston. "He is not slick, he is not

# Hard times for Mounties

By Paul Palmer

**For many in the RCMP:** British Columbia has a special significance. With nearly 5,200 officers on duty, almost a third of the entire force, it is the largest RCMP contingent in the country, the place where young up-and-comers have routinely gone to earn their spurs under contracts with the provincial and municipal governments. But in an age of progressive cuts in the police budget, the Mounties' huge numbers in British Columbia are also producing disproportionately huge headaches. In a series of interviews with *Monties*, senior officers have said, among other things, that they do not have the resources to undertake certain murder investigations even when they have a serious suspect in mind; they have not been able to follow up fully on five killings, some possibly serial, in the Prince George area through a suspect in jail on another charge; and, until recently, they have not had the trained personnel to help boaters on Stuart Lake even though the discharge a right on the lake.

Indeed, the Mounties' strained circumstances in British Columbia are such that they have not escaped judicial notice. Earlier this year, Supreme Court Justice Glen Fother, one of

## Straitened circumstances have left the province's RCMP crying the budgetary blues

the most respected judges in the province—and someone noted for his normally quiet demeanor—threw a judicial tantrum in the middle of a criminal trial in Prince George that was heard all the way in Victoria. What provoked him? In the end of Crystal Dianne Henricks, who was facing eight charges for sexual confinement and carnal, one crucial piece of evidence that ultimately resulted in her conviction—her diary—was almost not introduced. Because of financial cutbacks the Crown and, more importantly, the investigating RCMP had not had time or the personnel to read it until the trial was in its 15th day.

That frustrated Fother to look out—not at the police directly, but at an underfunded system that allowed them to overstep in the wind. "The justice system, generally, is under considerable pressure and stretch for defects that people seem to see in this system," he said. "These courts and this system are attacked by the media and the public without a single reference to the budgetary restraints that are being imposed and that are often preventing it from operating the way it should."

The problem is not unique to the West Coast. The Cana-

dian Centre for Justice Statistics released figures last week that showed the workload for police officers across Canada has more than doubled in 36 years while the number of police per capita has dropped for the seventh straight year. But in British Columbia, where the RCMP provides the bulk of police services, the situation is particularly acute. "Cutbacks in financing from the federal government are killing us," says RCMP Supt. Michael Morris, who is responsible for policing in the northern two-thirds of British Columbia. Compounding the problem is that the Mounties, to maintain their presence, tend in unbroken order to consider for municipal contracts, which means they run off lower-staffed and overworked.

Ujjal Dosanjh, British Columbia's attorney general, is blunt about the problem. "There is no question that is underfunding and that it is affecting public safety," Dosanjh says. "That has become very clear to me." He hopes to meet with the newly appointed federal solicitor general, Lawrence MacAulay, later this month to seek more federal money and officers. "In the past, I've talked about seeing up our own provincial police force. I've stopped talking about it now because it creates an air of instability," says Dosanjh. "But if Ottawa can't solve the problem, then all avenues are open to me."

According to the latest numbers, there are currently 238 vacant RCMP positions in British Columbia, and while re-allocations have been promised by Ottawa and will begin making its way this fall at the rate of about 25 a month, it will not be enough to account for retirement and attrition. On top of this, about 210 Mounties are off work due to maternity illness or suspension. And the B.C. contingent is being forced to absorb the costs of about \$4 million in overpaying from previous years as well as a pay raise for members in 1999.

The upper individual Mounties in British Columbia are carrying between 80 and 180 criminal cases a year, Morris says, compared to the national average of 44.5. Investigations are filling by the wayside, since the late 1980s, there have been five unsolved murders in the Prince George area, with at least two of those believed to be the work of a killer who operated along the Yellowhead Highway between Prince George and Prince Rupert and maybe as far east as Edmonton. "It's getting so bad here," says Prince George-based Supt. Glen McKee, "that criminals are coming in. Serious friends are not being investigated. I've been in situations in restaurants where people who I know have committed a murder at across the room and make faces at us, because they know we don't have the \$20,000 we need to go after them."

In some isolated areas, where officers tend to be stationed for



two or three years, criminals are using the legal aid system to stall long enough until Mounties with crucial testimony are transferred. "They know that we don't have enough money to send these officers back for a trial," says McKee.

The situation is so desperate that some Mounties are actively soliciting donations from private citizens to fund undercover operations and other investigations. "In many cases, the wealthy people in a community say 'We'll back up with the money,'" says McKee. "But that's not right. It puts the finger in a real dilemma of following someone else's priorities that Ottawa and some of our own boss are nothing wrong with that." Sgt. Bob Fredericks, who runs an RCMP detachment at Fort St. James, says priorities were, until just this summer, skewed to the point where each officer was being required to take a four-day course on violence in relationships, but there was no money to train members how to operate a boat. "We are located on a huge lake," Fredericks says. "If someone was drowning or had drowned, we couldn't send a boat out to help. Nobody was qualified."

The RCMP's largest detachment in British Columbia—and in Canada—is in the Vancouver suburb of Surrey, where the force is under contract to provide 371 municipal police officers. Surrey pays \$39 million annually for the service, and the federal government subsidizes the remaining 10 per cent of the cost. But the RCMP contingent is currently 33 officers short, and there is no hope of significant replacements in the near future. "The RCMP shut down its training academy in Regina last year because it didn't have the budget," Surrey Mayor Doug McCallum said in an interview. "They're now

Morris' frustration over continued government cuts

putting a few troops through but there won't be enough trained for Surrey until well into next year. This puts us in a very awkward situation. We've got a major problem with the RCMP right now. There is not enough manpower—we're losing our individuals." McCallum says that the situation has prompted Surrey to study the possibility of setting up its own municipal police force—leaving the RCMP to concentrate solely on federal policing at the area.

In Ottawa, meanwhile, the first report of a \$1-billion study of RCMP capabilities by the accounting firm PricewaterhouseCoopers (Canada) was delivered to the government in May, but its preliminary findings have not been made public. A final report is due in September. But whatever the accountants recommend, they will still have to adjust to the realities on the ground where cutbacks continue to increase, where young Mounties are routinely transferred in and out of remote communities and where the RCMP's mission as Western base continues to put pressure on itself by bidding low on provincial and municipal contracts. "Our complaints are not a comment on the dedication of individual RCMP officers," stresses Dosanjh. "We love these guys." No doubt that is the popular sentiment. But you get what you pay for. And in one self-serious pun it is: "The brass hasn't weakened to the first yet that the federal government seems determined to strangle the RCMP to death, and that if we are to survive we can't, for the sake of the institution, continue to co-operate in our own strangle." ■



## Buying back a small piece of the country

The southernmost piece of Canada, Middle Island in Lake Erie, was bought by the Nature Conservancy of Canada for \$1.3 million from private U.S. owners. The island, a 1.5-by-0.5-km sanctuary for many birds, will become part of Ontario's Point Pelee National Park, 30 km to the north. Funding from Ontario and private sources helped the environmental group outbid U.S. buyers.

## Frustrations at the boiling point

Hearings for 123 illegal Chinese immigrants found aboard an unmarked ship on July 20 off the coast of Vancouver Island were briefly suspended after the group staged a protest over food. It began after a man considered by authorities to be one of the ringleaders in the alien smuggling operation refused to eat his meal of Chinese noodles and porridge and others joined in. The protest ended after Mountain promised the detainees, who are claiming refugee status, a meeting to discuss their concerns and

frustrations, including complaints that their food was cold.

By week's end, eight teenage boys had been released into the custody of social workers, but authorities decided to detain the remaining illegal immigrants for at least another week as they checked on their identities. "If they all get in, you can bet your bottom dollar there's going to be a lot more coming," warned RCMP Staff Sgt. Glen Rockwell of the immigration and passport section in Vancouver. But in Ottawa, Immigration Minister Lucienne Robitaille dismissed calls to get tough on illegal immigrants: "We have to work against the traffickers, not people who are sometimes victims."

## The Lord's Prayer on trial

Declaring that "elementary schools are a powerful environment in which to manipulate the minds of children," a Saskatchewan human rights commissioner ruled that the recital of the Lord's Prayer has no place in a multi-faith system. A daily occurrence in about 100 of the province's 550 schools—and the subject of a six-year dispute—this matter may yet end up in the Supreme Court of Canada. Commissioner Ken Halverson, a married judge, did not have the power to order the practice stopped, only to enjoin the province to amend its Education Act.

## Back to the bench

New Brunswick Judge Jocelyne Morneau-Bélubé, who told a courtroom in February, 1998, that at least half of the province's Acadians were dishonest, is to get her job back, a provincial judge has ruled. Overturning the decision of the province's Judicial Council, Judge Jean-Claude Argen and Morneau-Bélubé was not adequately informed of the possibility of dismissal.

## Western quints

Yvonne and Bob Gilmore of Saskatoon are the proud parents of the first set of quintuplets born in Western Canada, and the eighth in the country since the famous Dineen quint in 1934. The Gilmores have a three-year-old daughter who was also conceived with the help of fertility drugs. The three girls and two boys were delivered by caesarean section at 29 weeks and weighed between one pound seven ounces and two pounds two ounces.

## Federal child care

A leaked planning document says Ottawa is considering a \$12-billion scheme for a national day-care system as well as \$3.2 billion to underwrite early kindergarten for three- and four-year-olds. Both programs would be administered by the provinces. Part of Ottawa's proposed "children's agenda," the document has not been reviewed by Health Minister Allan Rock.

## Anger among the nurses

Furious at their leadership for not doing a better deal, some Quebec locals are urging nurses to withhold their approximately \$350-a-year dues to the provincial executive. Nurses strongly rejected a negotiated agreement with the government on July 17 but have returned to work pending mediation.

## Raging hormones

Consumption of hormone-treated beef may be causing girls to reach puberty earlier, and could be leading to a higher risk of breast cancer later on, an international conference in Ottawa was told. Researchers say there is no other reason to explain the ever-earlier onset of puberty in North America.

## People

## Tying up loose ends

A best-selling novelist pens a reference book to answer her fans' queries

Novelist Diana Gabaldon says her latest best-seller, *The Outlander Companion*, came about from the haphazard way she wrote her preceding four. Her phenomenally popular *Outlander* series centers on Scottish Highland warrior Jamie Fraser and English nurse Claire Randall, a modern woman flung into the past just in time for Bonnie Prince Charlie's doomed 1745 uprising against the English. Randall was to have been a woman of the time, but Gabaldon had difficulty reconciling her idea of the novel's character with the female subservience historical accuracy demanded. Her heroine, she says, "kept making anachronistic modern remarks, rather than speaking like an 18th-century woman." Gabaldon hit on an inspired solution: time travel. But she fudged the mechanics of Randall's journey to the past, thinking her readers wouldn't notice.

Not hardly. Ever since, the 47-year-old writer has been deluged by reader requests to know all works. The result is the *Companion*, a reference book with not only a detailed theory of time travel, but plot synopses, horoscopes and the answers



Gabaldon: at first she fudged the details, thinking readers wouldn't notice

to many other questions raised in some 10,000 fan letters. The book is even forthcoming about life in Gabaldon's Scotland, Arrie, where she lives with her husband, Douglas Watkin, and their three teenage children. Watkin's life has been most changed by Gabaldon's success—he's sold his software company and, at age 47, become a professional drug addict. "My oldest calls *The Outlander Companion* an act of hubris," Gabaldon laughs. Perhaps, but while her constant snip it up, divine retribution seems a fair way off.

## All the president's Canadian men

In the new series *Dick*, a lean and mean look at U.S. President Richard Nixon and the Watergate scandal, the location and much of the cast are Canadian. The film, which claims that Deep Throat—the never-identified government insider who spied much of the dirt—was actually two teenage girls employed in presidential dog walks, was shot in Toronto. Dave Foley, of Canada's *Kid in the Hall* and NBC's *Norwood*, plays Nixon's chief of staff



Bob Haldeman. "Haldeman was an ass and an asshole," says Foley. "To me the single way to show him little moments of panic." Canadian character actor Saul Rubinek plays Henry Kissinger, Nixon's national security adviser, and Bruce McCulloch, another *Kid in the Hall* alumnus, plays reporter Carl Bernstein. Foley says it was not a conscious decision to cast so many stars north of the border. "The director just wanted to hire clutch comics and once you start doing that, you're bound to end up with a few Canadians."

Foley: his little moments of panic

Cover

# SEX & Marriage

Experts say sex is vital to healthy relationships. Why is it so difficult for couples to do what's good for them?

By Patricia Chisholm

**Max is recalling** what sex was like before the big job, kids and mortgage. "I was a walking hormone," he says, laughing a little with his wife, Julie, in the basement of their comfortable Montreal home. The thirty-something parents of two young children, who asked that their real names be withheld, used to fool around at least five times a week. Now, they say, they are lucky to make love that many times a month because they are either physically exhausted or mentally distracted by their demanding day-time jobs—his as a boss, hers as a stay-at-home mom. Unlike many couples, though, Max and Julie haven't lost their sense of humor about what they view as a temporary decline in their physical intimacy. "It's a little sad—sex is such an enjoyable, amusing experience," Max says. "We still really enjoy it, but now I find I'm often just too tired at night. I can get it up, but I just can't get up off the couch."

Ah, sex: It's one of the few pleasures left that doesn't blow the woadline, cause con-

cern or break the family budget. Researchers claim it even helps prevent wrinkles, and psychologists say it can rejuvenate the most tired relationship. According to a 1998 *Marlowe/CIBC* poll, 78 per cent of married Canadians (as opposed to 61 per cent of single respondents) said they were sexually active, and 87 per cent of married Canadians said they were "satisfied" with their sex lives. Sexual monogamy has never been easy, though, and that fact has become depressingly clear to the great glut of baby boomers who grew up with the pill and unprecedented sexual freedom but now are struggling with aging bodies, sexual boredom, marital spats and plain old exhaustion. So much for the Summer of Love.

There is no easy way out, either. The divorce rate is falling in countries where splintered families and AIDS prompt more people to recognize that breaking up really is hard to do. Statistics Canada reported this year that the number of divorces has fallen for four years in a row, from 78,890 in 1994 to 67,408 in 1997—a 14.5-per-cent drop. Edward Lazear, a University of Chicago sociologist who studies sexual dysfunction, says people appear to be staying together longer despite loss of problems with sex, because they are realizing that changing partners costs huge amounts of time, money and energy, with no guarantees. "They are

aware that divorce is not a one-year experience," he says.

Of course, some passion cannot be revived, and some couples find it easier to stay put and just be civil. But in general, therapists say good sex is a hallmark of solid, long-term relationships. It's an opportunity to relax, to put everyday pressures aside and, especially, to reinforce emotional intimacy and physical closeness. More couples are turning to sex aids like toys and salves to ignite passions, while others are exploring unconventional options like long-term affairs and groupsex. The permutations may be endless, but one thing is clear: Sex, or the lack of it, still speaks volumes. "If you want to look at what is going on in your relationship, look at your sex life—it will tie to you," advises Sig. Taylor, a Calgary marriage counsellor. "It's a barometer, and it's usually the last thing to go. If couples get to the point where there is no sexuality anymore, the relationship is pretty much dead."

Most people are reluctant to talk about an unconventional or problematic sex life, making it one of the last real taboos. But in fact, problems of one kind or another are strikingly common. One of Lazear's recent studies found that, over a one-year period, 43 per cent of women and 51 per cent of men between the ages of 18 and 59 experienced some kind of sexual impediment, including lack of desire, erectile dysfunction and pain

## The elation people experience at the beginning of a relationship is really more akin to a drug-induced high

during intercourse. "These are huge numbers," he said, "and it's probably an underestimate—people don't like to admit they have problems with sex."

No wonder people don't want to talk about their troubles—the message in the media is that only losers are sitting it out. Explicit, even kinky sex now permeates movies, magazines and the Internet. *50 Shades of Grey*, the late Stanley Kubrick's heavily hyped film, features the unlikely scenario of a married couple descending into the depths of their own, profoundly disturbing sexual fantasies. Against that backdrop, simple sex with a partner who never changes—except to acquire a few more aqs and bqs every year—can start to seem, well, ordinary.

What's to be done? Experts say the vast majority of aging-related sexual ailments—erectile dysfunction, pain during intercourse and lack of lubrication—can be cured medically. But lasting solutions have to start with talk. "If couples picture nothing is wrong, it only prolongs the problem," says Laumann. "Discussing it takes the edge off." The consequences of not talking can blight a life. At the beginning of our marriage, things were great," says Frank, a 68-year-old retired Ontario businessman who asked for anonymity. "We had sex a couple of times a week and we were great friends." But their sex life declined sharply after they started having kids—he and his wife now have three grown children. "I felt I was inadequate," he says. "There were so many times I quietly hid my face under the sheets and cried."

He and his wife separated, but they have since struck an uneasy truce and now live together, although their sex life never resumed. Recently, he learned from a TV talkshow that it is common for sexual appetites to fluctuate wildly from year to year, and that the combination of life pressures and hormones is usually to blame. "I think we need to talk more about sex," he says now. "If I had known this was her body and not me, I would have done everything to fight for her."

Hormones can be responsible for the ups as well as the downs. The elation people feel early in a relationship is akin to a drug-induced high and is far above as sustainable, reports say. "The amount of adrenaline in the body is so great, you can get by with almost no sleep," says Richard Deary, director of the Marriage Therapy Program at the University of Wrexham. "You just don't have the energy to keep that



going for more than a few months."

As passions abate, couples stand back and take a hard look at one another. Details of character and temperament loom in, and partners begin to make decisions based on compatibility. They may also notice that sex plays different roles in their respective lives. Libidos can differ wildly, partly because of natural hormonal levels—testosterone in men, androgen in women—and partly because of the approach that individuals take to sex. Desiring, like many therapists, has found that, typically, men use sex to feel good, while women need to feel good before they get into bed. The result when life gets stressful? He wants to, she doesn't.

Of course, there are no rigid categories when it comes to sex drive, and for many couples the roles are reversed. In either case, a mismatch can create big problems. Sipping a glass of white wine on a restaurant patio in Vancouver, a 38-year-old woman reflects on the recent breakup of her four-year, live-in relationship. "I realize that sex can't always be the priority," she says. "But for me, it's a way to let go of the day's hassles. You can get into it, just for the sake of pure, physical pleasure." She stayed with her partner for two years after their sex life ended, a phase that began when he was laid off. Despite her repeated efforts, it never resumed. "There was nothing I could do to reach him, and after a while I stopped try-

ing because the rejection was too hard to take. It was horrible," she recalls. "A relationship to me is a partnership—you play as a team. When something as basic as your physical intensity breaks down, it's impossible to think of yourself that way anymore. One of you has broken the contract."

Even when two people agree on what they want out of life, and seem to be getting it, sex can suffer. Hal Bentley, 44, and John Dolan, 37, have lived together in Toronto for more than a decade. Unlike many couples, gay or straight, their early years together were tough because they decided to put all their efforts into paying off a large mortgage. They took on borders and both worked at two jobs. "The house was always full of people so we didn't have many opportunities to be alone," says Bentley. Now, they have more time for one another, and that has translated into better sex. "After that amount of time being together, we were more honest with each other about our sexual needs," says Dolan.

National TV sex-show host Sex Janitor burns into brighter when the subject of sex and marriage is raised. "The two are not inseparable," she chortles, only half in jest. But that punditry has him braced to thousands of tales of woe, and she believes there are many ways to revive flagging sexual appetites. As a first step, she says, couples should set aside time for the occasional date. She counsels couples to play games, such as hide-and-seek—in the nude and in the dark. Sex toys can rev things up as well, she contends, although she has found that men are often threatened if a woman buys a vibrator. "They say, 'What do you need that thing for? You've got Mr. Ever Ready here.' But once men use it to stimulate their partner, they're home free—they think it's great."

In fact, there is something of a revolution under way in the sex of sex, especially for women. Shops like Womyn's Wear in Vancouver and Good For Her in Toronto carry women's underwear with useful details and shelves free of lard-core bras and girdles, and, of course, modesty under products.



Shopping at Womyn's Wear: shelves free of lard-core bras

As Womyn's Wear, for instance, a sound system plays warm jazz in a light-filled room where merchandise is arranged so that those browsing for lubricants can avoid coming face-to-face with customers sampling handcuffs and leather floggers.

There is also a relatively new line of erotic videos aimed at women, called Femme. Developed by retired porn star Candice Rayale, 48, the videos feature complex story lines and shun any scenes that degrade women. "There's a lot more out there than a couple oriented," notes Montreal's Joey Vaghs, who writes a syndicated weekly column called *My Arsy Business*. "Women want to explore their sexuality more, but they don't want to go to some sleazy hole in the wall—they don't want to feel cheap."

But bedroom toys cannot save a sex life that is undercut by marital conflict or fatigue. "Women are angry because they are aware that they are doing much more of the housework than men are," Janolman says. "A couple goes into bed and he has that copulatory gaze and she just looks at him and thinks, 'This is just one more person to service.' If they want more sex, she says, men will have to pick up more of the slack around the house—enough of this nonsense."

Like a mid-40s Vancouverian member of two young boys, can relate. With a demanding managerial job, and juggling off-hours—daily commutes to two schools, play appointments for tutoring, soccer, music—Lauke says she usually is too tired to do more than one thing in mind. "By the time my hand hits the pillow, I'm ready to pass out," she says. Her husband helps a lot with the kids, she says, but she is still the one who knows if it's pass day at school or whether the dog needs a rabies shot. Too often, she simply fills the bottom of her "to-do" list. "Making a date with your mate is good advice, but I also know I should be doing two miles a day on the treadmill," she says wryly. "Trying to recapture the fun you had when you were young is like trying to remember Grade 9 chemistry—you know what apparatus to use, but you've got no idea which chemicals you need to get a reaction."

Experts say there are peaks and valleys in everyone's sex life. Claude Guibon, professor emerita at the University of Guelph and one of Canada's leading sex therapists, says desire tends to follow a U-shaped pattern in most marriages: it is intense during the courtship phase, dips down with the arrival of children and—if couples are lucky—rings strongly upward again when children are



## The payoff for couples who remain intimate through a marriage's stress-plagued middle years can be extraordinary

olides. Often, those at the bottom of the U list to realize that they may be devoting too much energy to parenting at the expense of their marriage. "We need to educate people that husbanding and wifeing" continues even though you are now fathering and mothering," he says.

Some people understand that lesson without being taught. Cheryl, a 40-year-old Halifax housewife, and Bob, 43, who works in the offshore gas industry, have been married for 19 years. When their now-five-year-old son was born, the first three months were "challenging," recalls Cheryl, who with her husband requested anonymity. "We just realized that every time we would get intimate, our son would start crying. That was a given and we would just laugh." She says cribbing a few moments here and there is enough to keep her alive. "Even if it's five minutes in the shower in the morning, when junior is having his crump, it's better than nothing," she says.

Cheryl says she and her husband have tips and tricks, and that things can be especially difficult when her husband arrives home after a month offshore. "I always think of my relationship as the hardest thing I will do in my life, as well as the best thing," she muses. "It's hard to keep yourself present with somebody, to keep yourself vulnerable and open. It's hard to be intimate."

Marital apathy can do much more than lead to bad sex—it can torpedo a marriage if it spawns infidelity. Goldner, who specializes in counseling couples grappling with the fallout from cheating, says that except for chronic philanderers, affairs are rarely about sex. Usually, the cheater is avoiding another issue: they are turned off by a partner's weight gain, for instance, or they are not often left alone by a spouse obsessed with work. "Many, many people say that sex in the affair isn't nearly as good as sex with their partner," Goldner says. But if couples are willing to confront one another with their problems, they often arrive at an event that, in the past, was widely viewed as unforgivable. That is partly because cultural shifts have weakened old notions of sexual possessiveness. "There is less exclusivity to the sexual act now because so



Therapist in Calgary: "Look at your sex life—it won't fix you."

many people have had permissive sex," Goldner points out.

Some see a discreet affair as a viable alternative. Susan, a Toronto manager in her late 30s who requested anonymity, is deeply committed to her family, even though she has turned on a secret affair for nine years. "What she gets from her lover is not better sex, the excitement, but intellectual companionship and support in her professional life. Despite that, she has no intention of leaving her husband, with whom she has three school-age children. "Marriage is such a difficult, complex relationship," she says. "I would just be exchanging one set of problems for another if I left. And I think that children have the right to grow up in a home with both parents."

The payoff for couples who remain intimate through a marriage's stressful middle years can be extraordinary. Dartmouth, N.S., residents Les and Jean Haley have traced sex as a precious, fragile wonder that is integral to the success of their 44-year marriage. "We realized early that it was very important," says Les, 65. "Once a month, we would go out for a candlelight dinner. Taking the time is so important—it's not just going to the bedroom and saying, 'OK, let's have sex now.'"

Jean, 64, recalls times when life got in the way of their physical intimacy—job changes, caring for their three children, periods of depressed libido. And she candidly admits that it was sometimes work for a couple married in 21 to keep themselves from slipping. "The seven-year job, living in suburbs, wild parties—it's only by the grace of God we didn't go that route," she says. And she has some advice for those still bawling it out in the trenches. "Don't just have a home, children, work," she advises. "Do things that interested you before you were married. We always had a little bit of something just to ourselves—it keeps us healthy. And now that our family has left the nest, we have this whole new journey together." The motto for marriage, then, is "better sex than sorry."

With Ruth Ashbery and Chris Wood in Vancouver, and Susan McClelland in Toronto



Intimacy, passion is all too often undercut by fatigue

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Cover

# GONE But Not Forgotten

By Nora Underwood

Anna and her husband, both in their 40s, have been together for more than two decades. The Toronto woman, who asked that her real name not be used, says that during their first years, "we had sex every time we saw each other—sometimes twice a day." After about 11 years together, the couple started to have children and Anna claims for sex took a nosedive. "For the first time, I was having sex with my husband as required work," she adds. "This creeping reluctance to have sex started to grow; now it's about 99 per cent." Once so vital in the relationship, sex has dwindled down to an annual event. "I keep wondering," she says, "if this is the stage of life I'm in, or the person I'm with."

Anna's situation is not an anomaly. Researchers examining this little-understood aspect of marriage now say that sexually inactive couples of all ages are more common than previously thought. Hard statistics are nonexclusively imprecise, though, in part because men and women tend to see their sex lives from different perspectives. There is a scene in Woody Allen's film *Annie Hall* in which Allen and Diane Keaton, on split screens,

play a couple in separate therapy sessions. Each therapist asks about how often the two are having sex. "Almost never," he replies. "Only three times a week." She, meanwhile, tells her therapist "Constantly. I'd say three times a week."

In addition, most people find it difficult to admit they aren't having sex in their marriage. Anna's sex life with her husband has been almost nonexistent for about nine years. But she has never fully confided in anyone about it. "A lot of married people don't know what to do about it," explains Denise Donnelly, assistant professor of sociology and women's studies at Georgia State University in Atlanta and author of a study entitled *Sexually Inactive Marriages*. "It's very frustrating; it's very embarrassing and most of them put on a facade, pretend everything's OK."

Donnelly's conclusions come out of data collected in the late 1980s by a U.S. study that asked 6,029 married men and women. "How often have you and your husband or wife had sex in the past month?" Her questionnaire answers from people who had had health problems, who had recently given birth or were pregnant, or who didn't live together. The results: 16 per cent of married people, across a range of ages,

had not had sex during the previous month. "Is it a danger sign for a marriage?" Donnelly says. "What I found from this was that the more sex a marriage has, the happier it is on average. People who didn't have sex in their marriage were much more likely to say they had considered separation."

Some per cent may not sound dire, and most of the couples claimed to be having sex at least once a week. But, adds Pepper Schwartz, a leading U.S. sex researcher and sociology professor at the University of Washington in Seattle, "of that 16 per cent, how many didn't have sex for the six months before that? If you have 20 per cent who are not having sex regularly, that's one in five. That's a lot of people."

How does it happen? As in most relationships, the intense early passion fades when reality sets in. "You can have a highly charged courtship, then solidify it with a formalized ritual like marriage," explains Judith Donath, a professor of counseling psychology at the University of British Columbia in Vancouver. "When you start combining bank books and dealing with laundry, then the glow seems to change a bit, and it changes dramatically again with children."

Daily drudgery can put a kink in any romantic bed, of course. But it usually takes more than that to push sex out of a relationship completely. One couple to whom Donnelly spoke were staunch Catholics who saw their sex life disappear after the woman accidentally got pregnant before they were married. Why? The man felt so guilty that he was no longer able to perform. Another woman told Donnelly that she confided to her husband about having had an emotional affair; their sex life never recovered.

## Sexually inactive marriages are startlingly common, and they leave most spouses feeling hurt, confused and angry

Illnesses, depression and deaths in the family may also cool passions. And sometimes one person simply may not be as interested in sex as the other. John, a 42-year-old Toronto man who has been in a relationship for 20 years, says sex with his wife has at best occurred only sporadically—a fact he still finds difficult to accept. "It makes me feel very uncomfortable and it makes me wonder if there's something wrong with me because I can't seem to attract the person who I'm close to in life to that way," he says. "It's depressing and discouraging and dispiriting."

While the stereotype is of a frustrated man and disappointed woman, the reality of many sexually inactive couples is often different: "It really seems to depend more on circumstance than on gender," explains Donnelly, who is in the process of conducting a more detailed survey on sexual inactivity. "Some have just drifted into not having sex; it's not intentional, but at least one of the persons is very unhappy about this." Anna, for example, started to have children and began to resent the amount of effort she had always had to expend initiating sex with her husband.

For Jane, a mid-30s Montreal woman who also does not

wish to be identified, it was an unplanned pregnancy two years into a 12-year relationship that marked the end of an easy sex life. "When I thought it up, he would say he was going through something or just didn't feel like it," she recalls. "There was always some excuse." From that point on, sex happened sporadically, often with periods of several months in between. Even then, says Jane, "I felt like I had to initiate it and had to make it a big deal."

Prolonged periods without sex can cause a variety of problems in a relationship. "I think it's tougher on an older woman for whom sex has stopped because her estrogen has gone," says Dr. Rosemary Basson, clinical associate professor in the faculty of medicine at the University of British Columbia. "She remembers the frustration with this problem: sex and the whole focus becomes work, so after a few years it's kind of OK that it's gone." But if she eventually sees a doctor and gets help, Basson adds, "sometimes the woman does not want to go back."

There are other dangers, as well. Without sex at home, people often seek it from afar. Then there's the warning from (milk)king 1990s sex researcher William Masters and Virginia Johnson, who basically said: "Use it or lose it." People who are having heavy-duty sex are having it into their 70s or 80s, but they've been having it all along," says Schwartz. If people have sex infrequently enough, she adds, "they will have much more trouble with erections, women will be lubricating less. Bodies manufacture these things by practice."

An inactive sex life isn't a problem if both partners are content. And if they aren't happy, but there's a genuine willing-

ness from both to change the situation, experts say, there's nothing to stop change from happening. And if the cause of the inactivity is a lack of time and energy, then after a rest, kids do eventually grow up and leave home, and if a couple can learn to live with the less time, then once-prolific sex life may eventually be restored. "A lot of it has to do with what considered socially appropriate," says Donnelly. "Everybody is convinced that everybody else is having more sex than they are." Jane agrees. "People say you can't be happy unless you have an active sex life," she says. "It's unrealistic; if we all knew we were only going to have sex five times a year, it would be different."

In the end, the tall sexual inactivity takes depends on the people involved. "It's not a affirmed our marriage," says Jane, who is apart from her husband. "I think there's something subconscious that happens, it just makes you feel so much closer to somebody when you're touching them." But like any appetite, the sex drive is randomly derailed. "The question is, are you matched or are you become mismatched?" says Schwartz. "You would die from lack of sex—you may be less happy, but you would die." ■

# A Presidency for Sale?

By Andrew Phillips in Washington

As these things go, it wasn't much. An oyster bar, big bowls of Caesar salad and something described as "jumbo lump crab fondue"—all served on plastic plates to 420 people milling around one evening last week in the atrium of a fancy new children's museum in Baltimore. The food may have been so-so, but the price of admission was hefty: \$1,000 (U.S.) a head for the privilege of housing Al Gore, vice-president and presidential candidate, inside the locals that he is "cozy about Baltimore."

Re-elect? Another \$400,000 in the bank for Gore 2000, the organization dedicated to moving his name into the Oval Office when Bill Clinton departs in 18 months. More than anything else, this is the

essential activity of the modern American politician—not shaking hands or making speeches, but ruling in the back. At breakfast, coffee, lunches, dinners and receptions large and small, Gore and his competitors are bringing in

record amounts to fuel a campaign system with a seemingly insatiable hunger for cash. This year, the amounts are so big and are coming in so early that many fear the lullap for the 2000 presidential contest has already been decided—six months before the first voters have a chance to cast a ballot.

There's nothing new, of course, about big money in American politics. In 1996, Democrats and Republicans alike spent record amounts—\$2.4 billion, by one estimate, in races for the White House and Congress. That will almost certainly be surpassed this time, and in ways that call into question the modern system of selecting presidential candidates. Gore raised \$19.6



million in the first half of 1999, while his rival for the Democratic nomination, Bill Bradley, scooped up a surprisingly healthy total of \$11.7 million. But it was Texas Gov. George W. Bush whose fund-raising prowess most astounded observers: He collected \$37.5 million—by far the most ever so early in a campaign season, and an times that of his nearest Republican rival, Senator John McCain of Arizona.

Bush raised so much, in fact, that he decided not to accept matching federal funds available to major presidential candidates. By foregoing that money (\$16.5 million for the primary season), Bush will not have to abide by campaign spending limits—meaning he can far outpace his rivals for the party's nomination. Still, Bush's free chase is just one sign of how intense the fight for funds has become. Consider



Gore with astronaut Cal. Elbert Calbert: a spending record in the making



Bush is Salt Lake City: he will easily outpace his rivals for the Republican nomination

much more and more people to collect what they need.

More important, though, is the so-called front-loading of the political primary season. In previous years, primaries stretched over several months, with Iowa and New Hampshire kicking off the contest in early February, key southern states following in March and some big states like California not holding votes until

June. That meant a little-known and underfunded candidate, like Jimmy Carter in 1976, could score well early, then use that support to draw bigger contributions.

That strategy is impossible now because so many states have moved their primaries forward. By the middle of March, both the Democratic and Republican nominations will be over—so no candidates need to score big early. "The pressure is intense to raise a lot of money right away," says Paul Hinder of Washington's Center for Responsive Politics, which tracks campaign money. "They need it up front." The same pressure has focused unusual attention on an event usually dismissed as marginal—the Iowa caucus poll on Aug. 16. As many as 1,200 Republican activists will get together in Ames, Iowa, to vote for the candidate of their choice. Several who fall short that time will likely quit.

The result is that political donors rather than primary state voters will have the key say in who the parties nominate. Defenders of the system say it looks worse than it is—a candidate's ability to raise money, they argue, usually reflects his or her popularity (earning made each figure as much as \$100,000), says Steve Forbes, who is financing his bid for the Republican nomination from his own pocket. Bush's campaign, for example, notes that his record \$37 million came from 74,000 individuals giving an average of just over \$500.

In reality, of course, the usual suspects top the fund-raising lists—lawyers, lobbyists and corporate executives. Bush has raised much of his cash by enlisting some 400 "Proctors" pledged to raise \$100,000 each. The Proctors must find 100 people willing to give \$1,000 each, but their cheques are typically identified by a code number that allows the Bush campaign to credit them to the total. Another anonymous source is called "bundling": a law firm, for example, gets its partners and their spouses to donate \$1,000 each, and then sends the total of \$50,000 or so to the campaign. All perfectly legal—but critics say both methods mask the extent of the 1974 law, which aimed at minimizing the influence of any one donor.

There are a few signs that change may be coming. McCain has won a prize from Senate leaders that his campaign finance proposals will at least be debated by mid-October. And both parties are looking at ways to undo the self-destructive rush to over-saturate primaries. That, however, would not take place until the election of 2004. New year's race is already being shaped by this year's frenzied rush for cash. ■

• Democrats are aiming to raise as much as \$300 million in so-called soft money—unregulated funds that critics say amount to a giant loophole in U.S. campaign financing laws. That would be a huge jump from the \$122 million they collected in 1995-1996.

• A group of wealthy New York Democrats have pledged to raise \$25 million to finance Hillary Rodham Clinton's bid-certain race for the Senate there. She has also created one million appeals for financial support across the country—while Republicans out to "defeat Hillary" are pouring money into the race. If Clinton's likely opponent, New York Mayor Rudolph Giuliani, matches her in fund-raising, their Senate fight will be the closest congressional race ever.

• Even relatively obscure candidates are making it in. Sen. Jerry Brown left over from the fight to impeach President Bill Clinton earlier this year are being used by both sides to get their support to open that wallet. In a recent fund-raising letter, Democratic Leader Richard Gephardt reminded supporters that Republicans "ignored the will of the people to serve their own common agenda." One of the Republicans who led the fight against Clinton in the House of Representatives, James Rogus of California, has been targeted by pro-Clinton figures in Hollywood who have donated large sums to his likely Democratic opponent. Rogus, in turn, used his role in the impeachment battle to raise more than \$750,000—a previously unheard-of amount for a junior congressman more than a year from re-election.

A few candidates are trying to make an issue out of the spending race for money. McCain has informed the system at the center of his agenda. In July, Bill Bradley proposed free TV time for candidates so they could "run on the strength of their ideas, not the weight of their wallets." And Republican outsider Liane Alexander, a former governor of Tennessee, last week started running TV ads in the early voting states of Iowa in which he made Bush's fund-raising bonanza. "An auction is under way on the White House lawn," an anonymous source over pictures of men in string ties and cowboy hats calling each other.

Why the endless drive over cash for money? Partly because there is no such thing as a free lunch. In the eighth year of economic expansion, the pool of potential donors is bigger than ever. And since the maximum allowable contribution of \$1,000 per person to a presidential campaign has not been changed since the post-Watergate reforms of 1974, candidates must

# Inexplicable slaughter

A troubled man goes on a killing spree

By Tom Fennell

While the booming North American stock market has made many people rich, it has also bankrupted countless others who gambled big and lost. When Mark O. Burton, 44, walked into All-Tech Investment Group, an Atlanta brokerage, just after 5 p.m. last Thursday, there was nothing to suggest he had been brooding over his painful losses in the high-risk world of day trading. Neil Jones, one of All-Tech's traders, was the first to notice Burton. "He was someone who was very calm and determined," she said, "no feelings." Dressed in khaki shorts, the dark-haired, six-foot, four-inch client seemed free from worry as he chatted amiably with the receptionist and sat down for a talk with the branch manager. Then, without even a hint of anger, he stood up, pulled out two handguns and started blasting away, killing five people. What the people at All-Tech did not know is that Burton had just walked across a busy interstate road from Mercantile Securities, another day-trading firm where he had almost \$160,000 in the past two months. "It's had trading days, and it's about to get worse," he had disappeared there before he fired with both guns, killing four.

As police launched a search for Burton, an officer accidentally came across a grisly scene at his home in an Atlanta suburb. Burton's two children lay dead in their beds, his wife's body was muffled in a closet. All three had been beaten with a hammer, then held under water in the bathtub. With the murder toll at 12, and another 13 injured, the manhunt ended abruptly just before 8 p.m. when Burton, cornered by police at a service station on the outskirts of Atlanta, killed himself with a shot to the head. "This brings a very tragic end to an end," said Atlanta Mayor Bill Campbell. "I don't know if any of us can understand why something like this occurs."

Once again, Americans found themselves groping for a thread of reason in a senseless slaughter. The techniques and profile of the killer were similar to past mass shootings, when seemingly odd, unprovoked Americans suddenly turned on family members, workplace associates or fellow students. But if there is one dramatic difference to be found in this case, it is that Burton may have killed in cold blood before.

Born in Saratoga, S.C., in 1953, Burton worked with his first wife, Debra, in Georgia in the early 1990s. He worked as a chemical company salesman while the raised their two children. They appeared to be living a normal life, until Labour



Witnesses flee from an Atlanta office building; Burton with his family (below): "Wake up at night so afraid, so terrified"



Day weekend, 1993, when Debra, 36, and her mother, Elaine Speyer, 59, were hacked to death at a campground near a lake in Alabama. Burton was a prime suspect but was never charged, and an insurance company ultimately gave him almost \$300,000 under a policy he had taken out just before his wife's death. "The man has destroyed nearly my whole family," Burton's father-in-law, Bill Speyer, said last week. "The man, who is apparently killed my wife and daughter, also killed my two grandchildren."

By last year, Burton had left his job and was involved in the fast-growing, high-pressure world of day trading. Linked directly to major North American exchanges by computer, he would join fellow traders across North America in securing dozens of transactions each day, trying to turn a quick profit from price movements in either direction. It is an extremely risky business—some firms employ psychiatrists



to counsel excited investors. Police and accountants at the two companies say he lost heavily in aggressive day trading. "Mark would trade several thousand shares at a time," said a trader at All-Tech. In April, that firm banned Burton from further trading until he could restore his account to a required minimum value. On Wednesday, Burton was told continuously that a \$75,000 cheque he wrote to expose his account across the street at Mercantile had bounced. At week's end, it was learned that the cheque did in fact clear.

In an angry, cryptic note written before he set off on his shooting spree, Burton said he did not plan to live much longer. "Just long enough to kill as many of the people that greedily sought my destruction," he insisted. He had nothing to do with the murder of his first wife and her mother. But he explained how he killed his second wife, Leigh Ann, 27, on Tuesday, when his son, Matthew, 11, and daughter, Mychelle, 8, a day later. Using a hammer, said the note, "just seemed like a quiet way to kill and a relatively painless way to die." Trying to explain his actions, he wrote that he had been "dying" since October. "Wake up at night so afraid, so terrified," the note continued. "I have come to hate this life in this system of

things I have come to have no hope."

Follow traders and employers at the two firms where he had accounts paid the price. The shootings moved the debate over whether more effective gun control could prevent such incidents. Aside from the two handguns Burton used in the shootings, police found two more in his van and another in his home. Only one of the five was known to be registered in his name. In Washington, the U.S. House of Representatives and Senate have not been able to agree on a number of proposals, including a legalised waiting period to allow authorities to conduct a background check on people buying guns. Last week, however, even before the slaughter in Atlanta, the Senate agreed to hold talks with the House in a bid to break the impasse.

Gun-control provisions in Canada are also headed for a showdown. Last week, New Brunswick moved to join a legal challenge to federal legislation forcing gun owners to register their guns. It joins four provinces and the three territories in asking the Supreme Court of Canada to declare the law an unconstitutional infringement on their jurisdictions.

Day traders, meanwhile, cautioned against categorising their business. Joseph Ianni, vice-president of Toronto-based Swift Trade Securities, Canada's only day-trading stock, said the pressures in his line of work are great, but no worse than in many others. He saw no need for more accuracy in the investment industry. "This isn't a day-trading issue," said Ianni. "This is a gentleman who, if he had been in some other industry, would have done something in that industry." Perhaps so, but 13 deaths in Atlanta will forever be associated with the fast-paced world of online trading. □



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# A perceived threat in China

Beijing cracks down on a fast-growing sect that promises physical and spiritual health

Each morning at 6 a.m., when soft-  
ware developer Xian Li sits cross-legged  
to meditate in an Ottawa park, his  
crowd reflects one of the most visible  
Chinese mass-based sects. Xian, 37, and  
perhaps as many as 100 million other  
people in China and around the world,  
are members of a sect that practices  
Falun Gong—a potent mix of spiritual-  
ity and exercise. They were largely  
inactive until April 25, when thou-

sands of Falun Gong practi-  
tioners spontaneously staged  
the red walls of Beijing's  
Zhengnanli Compound,  
where China's top leaders  
live and work, and began to  
meditate. The government,  
apparently fearing the sect's  
explosive growth, briefly de-  
tained thousands of its lead-  
ers in mid-July. With sect  
members protesting in 30  
Chinese cities, Beijing or-  
dered Falun Gong, as July  
22. And last week, as Chi-  
nese authorities detained  
millions of Falun Gong con-  
science camps, books and per-  
sonalities, they arrested 1,200

Communist party members, accusing  
them of belonging to the banned sect.  
"I have cited over this," said Xian to  
the fellow devotees from Ottawa.  
"We are not a political group."

But the phenomenal popularity  
of the sect, just seven years old, has re-  
cently provoked the Communist leader-  
ship. Falun Gong was founded by Li  
Hongzhi, a former bank clerk who  
left China in 1997 and lives in New  
York City. The baby-faced 48-year-old,

the son of doctors, grew up  
in northeastern China before  
serving in the People's Liberation  
Army and then going to  
work. Li claims that at the age of 4, he  
was approached by a Buddhist monk  
who said: "We have been waiting for  
you." The monk, said Li, became his  
instructor and led him to create Falun  
Gong (Wheel of Law) to spread en-  
lightenment and conquer disease. The  
sect is essentially a mixture of Buddhist  
and Taoist teaching and exercises simi-  
lar to tai chi. But Li, who insists he  
has no political objective, also compares  
himself to Jesus and Buddha and talks  
of being able to plumb other levels of  
existence through a third eye. He rejects  
modern science and medicine and  
warns of a looming apocalypse.

Chinese authorities called for Li's  
arrest, accusing him of plotting to use  
his masses of followers to topple the  
government. "The Communists are  
themselves at the moral authority," said  
Gordon Anderson, dean of East Asian  
studies at Toronto's York University.  
"But now the people are being pre-  
sented with an alternative."

The emergence of Falun Gong comes  
at a critical time for the Chinese. Re-  
structuring has forced government-  
controlled firms to lay off nearly 25  
million people. With the unemployed  
rumoring the country, analysts say a  
growing sense of unease has attracted  
people to Falun Gong, now estimated to  
have as many as 70 million followers in  
China—which would top the 60-mil-  
lion membership in the Communist  
party. Falun Gong, said Joseph Boock,  
a professor of anthropology at the Chi-

nese University of Hong Kong, "reflects  
the moral teaching by the Chinese."

Beijing's harsh response may stem  
from China's history of violent religious  
conflict. The White Lotus Sect, which  
combined meditation with banding  
exercise, almost toppled the Manchian  
dynasty in 1813. In the 1850s, the Tien-  
pang rebellion, led by a scholar who be-  
lieved he was the son of God, triggered a  
civil war. And in 1900, another mystic  
group, the Boxers, launched a series of  
attacks on foreigners.

In the crackdown on Falun Gong, the  
authorities held detainees for several days  
in so-called sector stadiums. Some were  
sent to re-education camps to study  
Marxist theory. Some underwent shock  
treatments involving piles of Falun Gong  
booklets, and workers dumping sect  
literature into big piles. "Helping  
Falun Gong preach often manifested  
their thinking," said the official *People's  
Daily*. "We require serious efforts."

The movement's lack of rigid  
practices in cities around the world, in-  
cluding Ottawa, Toronto and Vancou-  
ver, in China, many followers are now  
reassigned to processing in the privacy  
of their homes. But the people are closely  
watching the crackdown. "Li isn't a  
God," said Lai, a Beijing cab driver.  
"But he's not a normal person either."  
That is not what the authorities in Bei-  
jing want to hear.

Ton Frazee and Paul Morley  
in Beijing



## The emptiness of hell

A week after telling the Roman  
Catholic faithful that heaven was not  
up in the clouds, Pope John Paul said  
that hell was not a physical place either.  
He described hell instead as "the pain,  
frustration and emptiness of life with-  
out God." Rather than being inflicted  
by God, he said, hell is something  
arising from being upon themselves.

## A cancer breakthrough

It might be an important step in  
the search for drugs against cancer,  
biologists at the Massachusetts Insti-  
tute of Technology have created a can-  
cerous human cell for the first time by  
genetically altering a normal one. The  
next step would be to find drugs that  
correct those specific genetic flaws.

## Functioning aircraft

Investigators found no evidence that  
John F. Kennedy Jr.'s plane broke up  
in flight or caught fire before plunging  
into the Atlantic off Massachusetts  
on July 16. The U.S. National  
Transportation Safety Board also said  
it saw nothing that would have pre-  
vented either the engine or the pas-  
senger from operating. Kennedy, his  
wife and near-in-law died when the  
Piper Saragoz was plunging west into  
the ocean.

## Peace and love

Seven young men, and riding one from  
Toronto, faced charges ranging from  
rioting to criminal mischief after a mob  
trashed and burned equipment and  
vehicles at the end of the three-day  
Woodstock '99 music festival near  
Syracuse, N.Y. The crowd marked the  
30th anniversary of the famed Wood-  
stock festival.

## Tipp to the courthouse

Linda Tipp, whose taped conversa-  
tions with Pentagon co-writer Mari-  
on Lewinsky led to the impeachment of  
President Bill Clinton, became the first  
central figure in the scandal to be in-  
dicted on criminal charges. A judge  
will have to decide whether an earlier  
promise of immunity from prosecu-  
tion will protect Tipp, 49, from two  
counts of violating Maryland state  
wiring laws.



## A risky Alpine adventure ends in 21 deaths

As the search continued for one missing body, Swiss police placed five guides  
under investigation after 18 young tourists and three other guides died while  
engaging in an extreme sport in an Alpine river gorge. The tragedy happened  
when a fresh flood swept down the river while the group was "canyoning"—  
sliding, jumping or rappelling down waterfalls and mountain streams.

## Towards security in the Balkans

Leaders from some 40 nations  
pledged to promote political and eco-  
nomic development and improve se-  
curity in the war-torn Balkans. Meet-  
ing in the Bosnian capital of Saraj-  
evo, they signed a pact that commits  
them to help the region become part  
of a free and prosperous Europe. Among  
its specific measures: creating more  
democracies and strong market  
economies, combating corruption and  
organized crime and preventing drug  
war and refugee crises. The leaders  
also reaffirmed commitments that

no economic assistance would go to  
Serbia as long as President Slobodan  
Milosevic remains in power. Prime  
Minister Jean Chrétien, who attended  
the summit, said that choice lies with  
the Yugoslav people. "We hope they  
do not choose a black future," he said,  
"in poverty and isolation from the  
European family."

In Belgrade, a Serbian opposition  
leader, Zoran Djindjic, appealed to  
army commanders to stop protecting  
Milosevic and instead try to root him  
out. Djindjic, meanwhile, is under in-  
vestigation for draft-dodging, because he  
left Serbia during the NATO bombing  
campaign, saying his opposition to  
Milosevic had put his life in danger.

## A judge sets a price on Clinton's lies

The Paula Jones case added a new stain on Bill Clinton's legacy, when a  
Federal Court judge made an unprecedented order for the President to pay her  
lawyers \$135,000 to compensate them for the extra work caused by his false  
testimony. Clinton spent last year to pay Jones \$1.28 million without admit-  
ting to sexually harassing her while he was governor of Arkansas. But he was also  
found in contempt of court for falsely denying a sexual relationship with former  
White House intern Monica Lewinsky. The lawyers had sought \$750,000.



Li Hongzhi, founder of Falun Gong, is seen in a photo (top) and a portrait (bottom).

# From Plonk to Praise



Canada's flourishing young wineries are in vintage form—racking up awards and European rivals

By Anthony Wilson-Smith

Those who still think of wine connoisseurs as somberly lightweights—the sort of people not really enough to appreciate beer—clearly haven't met Stu Morgan. For almost 30 years, the beard-choked, steel-haired Morgan was a fighter pilot in the Canadian Forces—so good that he was a member of the elite Snowbirds aerobatic team. After he retired from the military in the late 1980s, Morgan inspected aircraft for Transport Canada, taking early retirement in

1997, at age 57. Then, he took his life savings and bought into the fledgling Lakeview Cellars Estate Winery, which two friends owned near the town of Vineland in Ontario's Niagara region. Now, the three partners and their wives work up in seven days a week, more drinking a sabbat, at their 13-acre site. "I love wine, and I love Canada," says Morgan. "We want to show how great Canadian wine can be."

It takes all kinds to make good wine—and a drinking wine industry. Not far from Lakeview Cellars is the enormously successful Cave Spring Cellars. Its producers, Leonard Penzicotti,

Will (left) with Neuman Smith, chairman of Steven Estate Winery, at Niagara-on-the-Lake producing premium wines and having the merlot

## Uncorking gold

Canadian wineries have taken many prizes in international competitions in recent years. At the Challenge International du Vin 1999, awarded the wine Q66666, domestic wineries took home seven top prizes. But Canadian chardonnays and Cabernets are also starting to make their mark. Here are some of their 1999 winners:

**Concorso Enologico de Vinitaly—  
Verona, Italy**

## GOLD MEDALS

- Peller Estates' 1997 Fouries Series Chardonnay (Ontario)
- Peller Estates' 1997 Cabernet Sauvignon (Ontario)

(The grand gold-medal winner was Steven Estate Winery's 1997 Vidal Icewine, Ontario)

**Chardonnay du  
Monde 1999—  
Burgundy, France**

## GOLD MEDALS

- Calton Vineyards' 1997 Artist Series Chardonnay (British Columbia)
- Hillcrest Estates Winery's 1995 Inua Chardonnay (Ontario)

is former PhD candidate in social and political thought—while Cave Spring's winemaker, Angelo Davis, was a philosophy doctoral candidate. By comparison, the background of Greg Bern, general manager of the huge Hillbend Estates Winery, seems mundane: Bern, 55, says he "just drifted out to Niagara for no particular reason" from university and stayed, working up through the ranks at the winery.

When it comes to the people who oversee the nation's wine business, forget stereotypes—and this is even more true of Canadian wine. A decade ago, it was sternly dismissed or derided by parents. In an appearance before a parliamentary commission on fine food in 1987, author Mercedes Ruller famously said of Ontario wine that "there is only so much plonk. I'm prepared to drink for my country."

Back then, the grapes were the main problem. They were deterministic varieties that had the virtue of predictability, but a flavor more suited to the production of sweet wines—or candy and soft drinks. For years, Ontario's best-selling wine was a bubbly pink called Baby Duck. A 1979 *Maclean's* article noted that Andrei Wines Ltd., had recently marked the sale of its 10-millionth bottle of the product: "Much maligned by sniggering wine critics, it is snapped up by wine buyers who believe bouquet is for spring gardens, [and] aging something to be feared." Since those days, wine growers have ripped up the vines and replaced them with vitifolius, the species from which all classic wines are made. And now, Andis, which still produces Baby Duck among its steadily growing main lines, also owns Hillbend and produces some of the country's most high-end wines. "Vindis has had a lot of satisfied customers at all price ranges over the years," says Bern, "and that's what counts."

In recent years, wineries in British Columbia and Ontario, the two provinces with important wine industries, have won hundreds of international awards for their quality in competitions. "Some of the best Canadian wines in some categories are equal in blind tastings to any around the world," says wine writer Tony Aspler, editor of *Wineology* magazine and a columnist for *The Toronto Star*. "If they're not yet getting sufficient recognition, that's because of a lack of quantity, not quality. They just need to be better known."

For now, within Canada, Ontario remains dominant. In part through its sheer size (it produces 90 per cent of the wine made in Canada) and its 20,000 acres of harvestable grapes is about seven times larger than British Columbia's vineyard acreage. Though smaller in size, B.C. wineries are flourishing—they won 449 medals in international competitions last year alone. And in June, *Wine Spectator*, the influential New York City-based magazine, scored up largely enthusiastic reviews of 13 B.C. and nine Ontario wines. The highest Canadian ranking, a 91 out of 100, went to a 1994 Chardonnay Okanagan Valley Family Reserve produced by Quail's Gate Estate Winery of British Columbia. It was praised as "crisp and firm, yet supple and silky, too."

Overall, the big winners in international competitions have been in the category of ice wine: sweet, complex and expensive wines for which Canada has become renowned—and which have become the focus of controversy abroad. But Aplica and others also cite Canadian Rieslings and white wines in general. Grapes used for those wines don't need the same long, hot summers required to produce outstanding red wines. Respect also extends to such categories as chardonnays, rosés and, in years such as 1995, 1997 and 1998, white Ontario summers were long and hot, Cabernet Sauvignons and Merlots. So, in conditions this summer also bode well for another standout year. "We're long-

## Winemakers argue that Europe's import limits are just sour grapes



past the days of apologizing for our wine," says Allan Schmidt, the general manager of Vineland Estates Winery in Ontario—and some of his peers bear that claim out. Vineland's 1997 Meritage Cabernet/Merlot, for example, is moving briskly in sales at \$125 a bottle, even though it is only available at the winery, which limits sales to two bottles to a customer.

Perhaps predictably, success has also brought troubles—and problems. Canadian wineries are now embroiled in a bitter dispute over the European Union's decision to ban the import of ice wines. That decision holds despite Canadian ice wine having won numerous prizes in Europe, including a series of medals at the Challenge International du Vin in France in June. (In Canada, Icewine has become a federally registered trademark.) But European officials continue to bar ice wine on the grounds that—because of a high sugar content—the product's alcohol content could increase with fermentation. The suggestion is that while ice wines are fermented at up to 11-per-cent alcohol, they may with time rise above of Europe's 15-per-cent limit.

**That ruling** "carries bureaucratic red-tape ideology to the extremes," says Gene Sprague's President, who is also chairman of the Ontario Vintners Quality Alliance. As present, the EU, along with Sweden all Canadian ice wine, while regular Canadian wine imports to about 100,000 litres, or a value of about \$1 million annually—while European wine producers, who sell \$550 million a year in Canada, face no restrictions. EU officials argue that Canada does not have a satisfactory rating system for its wine, but Canadian winemakers point to the establishment last year of the Canada-wide Vintners Quality Alliance. The VQA, using a system that had already been applied in British Columbia and Ontario, rates and certifies Canadian wines according to the origin of the grape and the quality of the vintage. Canadian producers say the EU objections are largely an attempt to keep a successful competitor out of their market.

Now, the VQA avows federal rubber-stamping to win international recognition. Penachem and other winemakers want that approval quickly and suggest the provincial liquor boards could boycott European wine for 90 days to press the case for a more open market. The move, if they were to happen, would hurt both the French wine industry and Ontario wine drinkers—as the Liquor Control Board of Ontario is the world's largest purchaser of French wines.



*Morgan, an Okanagan vineyard (top), the vineyard used to believe good red was French and good white was German*

Yet, Canadian governments are not always allies to their wineries. Although many wineries now sell over the Internet, they are only allowed to make such sales within their home province. In Ontario, the government recently revoked policy that had, in effect, discouraged local wineries from selling VQA wines directly to restaurants. Until then, the liquor board had charged the equivalent of a 50-per-cent tax on such sales—even though the LCBO played no part in the transaction. The result, says Joe Wili, president and winemaker of Steven Ewart Winery of Niagara, "was that it cost us money to sell to restaurants. We had to pay all the delivery charges, and then the government took all that money." Now, wineries will only have to pass along to the liquor board the equivalent of the lower tax on sales that they pay on shipments to LCBO stores.

Despite such problems and frustrations, wineries in the two provinces have been taking steady leaps forward in both quality and quantity. According to B.C. government figures, VQA wines accounted for \$42 million in sales last year, more than six times the total of \$6.9 million seven years ago. In Ontario, sales of VQA wines have risen about 40 per cent a year in the past decade, with the exception of 1994-1995, when sales slumped after a harsh winter damaged crops. More than 40 per cent of wine sold in British Columbia is



*Steve Ewart's Winery now runs the grower from Bally Duck in Haldenwood Estates*

Canadian—and the figure is similar in Ontario, even though most wineries are small and lack the resources for widespread advertising.

Still, relative youth and small size has not stopped some wineries from branching out into tourism. In British Columbia, the Okanagan Valley Wine Trail began operations this summer. The trail, composed of 10 vineyard cars from the Super Continental series that operated across Canada in the 1950s, travels a route that includes Kelowna and Vernon, and offers passengers several award-winning vineyards. The seven-hour trip, which includes a stop for dinner and a range of wine ranges in price from \$54 to \$95. The province has more than a dozen annual wine events as well, including the Icewine Festival held in Kelowna in January.

Ontario's Niagara region, meanwhile, has pushed the link between wine and other tourists to sophisticated heights. The region is blessed with some of the country's mildest weather, and lush, rolling scenery. Now, it also has a growing number of upscale restaurants—many tied in with the wineries. The first, and one of the best, is On The Water, which is part of a complex operated by Cave Spring that also includes their wine boutique and tasting room. The elegant Sorena Winery, located near Niagara-on-the-Lake, offers cooking courses and an upper-end restaurant, while the complex at Vineland Estates is run out of refurbished 19th-century farm buildings. Of the 30,000 cases of wine that Vineland Estates sells annually, about 80 per cent are bought on site. Recently, a pharmaceutical company booked its 65-year private dining room as the country house, paying \$200 a head for a private dinner that included 11 courses and 17 kinds of wine. "We want to be a final point of destination," says Schmidt. "To that end, he has big plans, including the construction of vineyard trails and a culinary institute."

**That is how** the more modest operators conduct business. Perhaps surprisingly, there is more camaraderie than competition between them and the smaller operators, such as Lakeview Cellars, that are still struggling in the hope of eventual profit. Last year, Lakeview produced 11,000 cases—including some outstanding Cabernet Sauvignon and Merlot wines that one winemaker described as "the most best kept secret." They need to produce about 20,000 cases to become profitable, a goal they hope to reach in three years. "Around here," says Sen Morgan, "everyone works for the greater good of the region."

But there are frustrations that make the self-described "million Canadian outsiders" beside. His wife, Gail, he confides, "goes mighty embarrassed" by his habit of requesting Ontario wine at restaurants—and "muttering hell" if they have none. During his days in Europe as a pilot for the Forces, he says, "I used to believe that anything good and old was French, and anything good and white was German." But now, "I figure the hell with the imported stuff," he says. "We have good wine right here." At his new winery, set as in his old life, Morgan and his partners are betting everything that the sky's the limit.

With Jennifer Huxton on Vancouver

## A long road to respect

The Canadian wine industry began humbly, weathering a long-standing reputation for low-quality bubbly. Today, it has emerged as a respected producer of some fine vintages.

**1638** In "Jesuit Relations," the annual report presents sent back to France, Father Paul Le Jeune writes of winemaking in the early French settlements. Grapes were crushed into a foul-tasting sacramental wine.

**1860** Johann Schiller, a retired German soldier, plants Canada's first true vineyard along the shores of the Credit River in what is now Mississauga, Ont. The vines are imports from the Rhine Valley. By 1871, he establishes Canada's first commercial winery.

**1888** Father Charles Parosky and the priests of the Oblate Mission plant British Columbia's first vineyard on their property near Kelowna.

**1928** Standard Park Wine Co. (later known as Chateau-Gai) of Niagara Falls, Ont., becomes the first company to buy the Canadian rights for the Methode Champenoise—a process for the production of sparkling wines and champagnes.

**1952** The Niagara Grape and Wine Festival is launched.

**1966** The federal government passes legislation allowing the importation of Europe's premium white grapes.

**1978** Andrea Wine Ltd. of Wilton, Ont., sells its 10-million bottle of Bally Duck, which has become Canada's top-selling wine.

**1983** The federal government spends \$2.5 million to buy 4,000 tons of excess red grapes from Ontario growers hit hard by the loss of low-priced imported wines and a consumer shift to white wines. The grapes are used to make juice, punch and blends.

**1988** Domestic wineries face tough competition with the anticipated arrival of the free-trade agreement and an international trade ruling against Canadian limits on imported wine and liquor. In response, federal and provincial governments offer aid to grape growers to replace fields with premium non-market vines, such as chardonnay, Riesling and Merlot. The industry is shaken, but better times will emerge.

**1996** The Canadian wine industry establishes the Vintners Quality Alliance, which sets standards to raise and clarify quality wines. Winemakers press for the federal government to pass legislation so the ratings will receive international recognition.

**1999** The number of Ontario and B.C. wineries climbs to 1031 from only 29 a decade earlier.



# An industry on the line

As a ruling against the Auto Pact looms, Canada weighs broader tariffs

By Mary Joaspin

In the 34 years since Prime Minister Lester Pearson and President Lyndon Johnson signed the Canada-U.S. Auto Pact at LBJ's Texas ranch, the agreement has evolved into a powerful symbol of prosperity and patriotic pride. Before the pact, the domestic auto industry was a perilous, costly operation that churned out small numbers of many-car models to avoid Canada's even-higher tariff on imports. The pact swept away that restrictive system. Both nations eliminated their tariffs on two-way trade. U.S. carmakers promised that the value of the cars they assembled in Canada would at least equal the value of the cars they sold—that a large portion of the content in each vehicle would be made in Canada. In return,

Canada abolished its duties on U.S. carmakers' imports of vehicles and parts. Almost overnight, the economy buzzed with new life. Canadian assembly lines, largely in southern Ontario, began to turn out the more North American output of key models. Car prices dropped. Employment soared. Today the \$86-billion auto and parts industry is the economy's highly productive backbone. In size it is more than 12 per cent of the manufacturing sector. "For every car that Canadians buy, we are now assembling almost 18 vehicles—virtually all for North American markets," says University of Toronto political scientist John Kinim. "It is a Canadian success story."

Given that history, it is no wonder the Canadian government is anxiously awaiting a World Trade Organization

judgment next month that could undermine the pact's very existence. The Geneva-based group's hearing began last January when Japan and the European Union complained that Canada's 6.1-per-cent tariff on vehicle imports from overseas was unfair because it did not apply to imports by the Big Three automakers—General Motors of Canada Ltd., Ford Motor Co. of Canada Ltd., and DaimlerChrysler Canada Inc.—from their overseas subsidiaries. The WTO decision could declare that Canada's tariff policy is discriminatory. If that occurs, Ottawa has several choices: it could abolish the tariff, apply it to all imports or adopt the U.S. approach—which consists of a 2.5-per-cent tariff on all overseas car exports—to cushion the impact on the Big Three. Although contingency plans have not

been finalized, Montreal businessmen say Ottawa is leaning towards extending its 6.1-per-cent tariff to all imports. The WTO could also decide the production and content conditions imposed on the Big Three in 1965 contravene WTO rules. That would scrap the very guts of the original deal. "Right now, the overriding feeling is worry," says an Ottawa trade consultant. "Auto play such an important role in this economy." Was another "We're going to get clobbered" policy-makers are deeply concerned about the pact's demise because that could affect their long-term ability to

Three could eventually lose a portion of their market if Canada loses the case. Japanese and European dealers faced the same import costs in the Big Three, the sales of Canadian-made cars could decline as purchases of foreign models rise. That would reduce the number of Canadian jobs. "Tariff elimination would unquestionably permit the Japanese and European producers to capture a bigger share of the market over time with production from overseas," predict Ottawa trade consultants Gordon Kliche.

In the short term, however, the pact's demise would have few immediate repercussions. Canada produced almost 2.6 million vehicles worth \$52.7 billion in 1997—while the tariff applied to fewer than 150,000 cars and light trucks. Well-established, the Big Three have long since surpassed the Auto Pact's demands, producing almost twice as many cars here as they sell. Since the early 1980s, Canada has piled up huge surpluses in its U.S. automotive trade. In 1997, the vehicle and parts surplus was a staggering \$11.7 billion.



Ford trucks being assembled at a plant in Oakville, Ont. (Left: Maryjoaspin: "We are the Curb Scurry of trade")

any the Big Three's decisions on where to put future investments. Without the right to offer tariff breaks in return for the Big Three's production and content pledges, Ottawa may find it difficult to convince U.S. automakers to build future plants in Ontario instead of Michigan. Canadian Auto Workers union president Buzz Hargrave says Canada simply does not know how to bargain. In 1986, it unilaterally removed its tariff on all parts imports—without first securing any promise of more domestic production from Japanese or European carmakers. "Who is going to act in our interests?" he asks. "We are the Curb Scurry of International Trade."

Trade experts also warn that the Big

Three cost roughly \$18 an hour less than their U.S. counterparts in salary and benefits. "Elimination of the tariff would have virtually no immediate effect," says Kinim.

Still, an adverse WTO decision will eventually force Canada to overhaul its trade policies to cope with a rapidly changing world. In 1965, Ford did not own Jaguar and Volvo, Chrysler had not merged with Daimler-Benz AG, which produces Mercedes-Benz, and GM did not own any part of Saab. Those foreign cars now enter duty-free. Meanwhile, Honda Canada Inc. and Toyota Canada Inc.—which employ 5,900 workers to build 490,000 cars in Canada—must pay duty on their imports. "The Auto Pact privilege is getting to be less desirable because it is who owns the imported vehicle that determines the tariff—not where it is actually made," argues C. D. Howe Institute economist Daniel Schwane.

Worse, the Auto Pact ruling will come amid four other WTO decisions over the next eight weeks on everything from duty experts to technology subsidies. Because Canada will likely lose key portions of most of those decisions, Canadians will get a formidable reminder of the challenges and perils that an outgoing, import-oriented economy faces. "We are being highly scrutinized because we are so export-dependent, basically everything we do tends to be covered by WTO rules," says Schwane. "It can be unfine."

In the end, experts argue that the answer lies on home. At home, Canada should become more attractive to its citizens by raising its standards. Abroad, Canada should work to ensure that when the 134-nation WTO begins its second round of negotiations next year, subsidies are dented. "When you go to the WTO rule of law, you take your chances," says Gerry Shannon, senior counsel at Government Policy Consultants. "It is better than firing the belly on the block and getting clobbered." With their cherished Auto Pact under attack, Canadians may find it hard to remember that advice. ■

## The Royal logs on to AOL

The Royal Bank of Canada announced it will spend \$90 million to acquire a 20-per-cent stake in AOL Canada Inc., a subsidiary of America Online Inc., the world's biggest Internet service provider. With the deal, the Royal gains an important foothold in the U.S. market, gaining access to AOL's 17-million customers. The Royal, through its ownership of Scotia Frye Network Bank, a branchless Internet bank based in Atlanta, and Bull & Bear Securities, a New York City-based online brokerage, plans to market financial services to those AOL customers. "This strategic alliance fits nicely with our U.S. growth strategy," said John Cleghorn, the Royal's chief executive, as he, AOL Canada chief executive Stephen Barlow and AOL



Barlow (left), Cleghorn, now partner

International president Jack Davis announced the deal.

Also in the hunt for a stake in AOL Canada is Jean Morry, president and chief executive of telecommunications giant BCE Inc. Morry wants to link the Symperio online service with a global Internet player. "We are still in negotiations with AOL and other parties," he said.

## Canadian Airlines runs low on cash

**Cash-strapped** Canadian Airlines International Ltd., reporting a second-quarter loss of \$17.8 million, says it will cut passenger capacity by seven per cent, beginning with the winter schedule. Kevin Benson, president and CEO, said the airline needs a cash infusion of up to \$500 million by year-end to buy the carrier time to build up to revenues. Benson expressed optimism about finding a new investor, but also said "it's very important that we complete our financing this year before we run out of cash."

## Financial outlook

The gross domestic product grew by 0.8 per cent in May, ranking the 10th consecutive month of growth. Statistics Canada reported. The increase

was broadly based, with the wholesale sector powered by computer, hardware and hardware purchases. Retailing and private, communications and business services also posted growth.

The U.S. labor department, meanwhile, reported wages and benefits rose 1.1 per cent in the second quarter, resuscitating inflation fears and the prospect of the Federal Reserve raising interest rates. The news also undercuts a rallying, but was later countered by GDP figures showing the U.S. economy grew less than expected in the second quarter. "This is all much ado about nothing," said one analyst.

## A taxing pickle

Starting this week, Canadians will pay duty for several European imports as Ottawa imposes 100-per-cent tariffs on \$11.3 million worth of goods, including Danish pork, French and Austrian beef, and Spanish cherries and cucumbers. The duties may effectively block sales of these products. Last month, the World Trade Organization ruled that Canada and the United States could levy the tariffs because of an EU ban on North American beef treated with growth hormones.

## Telelobe gets pounded

Investors battered Telelobe Inc.'s stock after the global long-distance phone carrier said its second-quarter profits will fall to 15 cents a share, well short of the 20 cents analysts had expected. The Montreal-based firm also lowered its forecast of 1999 share price to between \$4.05 and \$1.20 a share from its previous estimate of \$1.50. The day after the announcement, Telelobe shares plunged \$9.35 to close at \$32.75, eliminating nearly \$2.3 billion from the firm's market value.

## Martha's millions

She is adored by millions of fans. Now, those worshippers can own part of Martha Stewart, too. The popular and controversial lifestyle guru plans to raise \$150 million by selling stock in her New York City-based company, Martha Stewart Living Omnimedia Inc. Stewart, 57, a chairman and CEO of the firm, whose ventures include two magazines, a television show, 27 books, a Web page, radio spots and newspaper columns. In 1998, retail sales of her merchandise topped \$1.1 billion—96 per cent more than a year ago.

## Takeover complaint rejected

An Ontario judge has thrown out a shareholder's attempt to delay a vote on Fionn Macdonald Inc.'s takeover by the National Bank of Canada. Shareholders will meet to plan on Aug. 10. The Ontario Superior Court judge rejected allegations that there were deficiencies in the information circular sent to investors. In June, the National Bank offered \$712 million for Fionn Macdonald.

## Personal Finance



Macdonald: better-defined categories will make performance easier to judge

## A mutual understanding

The fund industry agrees to standards to aid investors

By Danylo Hawesdshin

**George Buckley** says it happens all the time. A client will walk into his downtown Toronto office and ask why assets held in a particular (quoted) fund are not performing as well as "the rest of the market." Invariably, the client has made the mistake of assuming that because some assets are clothing, others in exactly different sectors of the economy should be doing well, too. Luckily, a senior vice-president and financial consultant at Merrill Lynch Canada Inc. likes this to competing case. "There's no point in you and me having a conversation as to why a Volkswagen fund doesn't do as well as your friend's Porsche." But when it comes to financial markets, he says, "that's what people are doing all the time."

To help clear up the widespread confusion among investors, in May, the Investment Funds Standards Committee published a new master list of categories to help analysts rank the performance of mutual funds. Representatives of Canada's major newspapers and mutual fund database and research firms comprise the committee, which drew up the

list of 33 categories and a set of criteria. The need for clearer classifications was obvious. Industry players had been making up their own categories, selecting funds for each and then ranking them. Often, a top mutual fund in one category would be ranked second or worse on another analyst's list or be left out entirely.

The old categories were so wide-ranging that analysts and investors were at times comparing apples and oranges, or in Buckley's terms, jeans and Porsche. In one change, the committee split groupings for Canadian equity funds along two lines—creating the Canadian Large-Cap Equity category, which lists funds with holdings in large firms, the Canadian Small and Mid-Cap Equity for smaller companies and Canadian Equity, which lists a mix of all three. The change reflects the fact that companies of varying size perform, not surprisingly, differently.

Scott Macdonald, vice-president of mutual fund fund provider Hamilton Analytics Ltd. of Toronto, and chairman of the standards committee, says investors are better protected. "You now have a set of categories that are reliable and consistent," Macdonald says among the industry

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May saw the 10th month of growth in the gross domestic product





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## Personal Finance

analysts who scoured the talks that led to the company's formation. Recognizing a need for standards, the participants formalized their association in January, 1998. Sixteen months later, it published the first list of companies, which has quickly become the standard for most brokers, analysts and newspapers. Each month, the committee meets to add new funds or re-categorize existing ones, posting each change on its Web page at [www.mfci.com](http://www.mfci.com).

Most mutual fund managers have responded favourably to the changes. Bob Bell, president of BellCharts Inc. and a member of the committee, says that in classifying about 2,300 funds, "we've probably had far fewer than 10 that were contentious." Another 100 funds said that their categorization be reconsidered. Rankings are clearly important: the funds currently administer \$355 billion in assets, and net sales of all funds in June totalled \$1.6 billion. "Funds today move faster than ever before, are partly sold on relative performance," says Bell. "Depending on the group you're in, it can make a significant difference."

The committee is now drawing up a list of mutual benchmarks for each of the 33 categories, which it plans to publish by month's end. At the moment, the categories allow investors to judge only how well a fund does against a similar fund. But with a benchmark like the Standard & Poor's 500 Index, which tracks U.S. firms, or the Northern Trust Small Cap Index, which monitors small- to mid-sized Canadian companies, the investor can determine how a fund is performing relative to the market. However, Eric Kinross, a finance professor at the University of Toronto's Rotman School of Management, cautions against relying too heavily on indices to judge funds. "Benchmarking is still somewhat of an art," Kinross says. "In deciding what the appropriate benchmark is, these analysts will come up with four different opinions." Still, the scores taken by the standards committee do help investors put order where confusion has reigned.



Ross Laver

**Good news:** Asia is on the rebound. The bad news? Now that the region's financial crisis has faded, there's less chance of meaningful economic reforms. And that could spell trouble down the road for naive investors who once again succumbed to the lure of easy money.

"A lot of the reforms that we were hoping to see are simply not going to take place," says Mark Mobius, the globe-trotting dean of emerging-markets investing.

Mobius, who manages \$16 billion worth of emerging-markets money for the Timpson mutual fund organization, is far from pessimistic about the prospects for economic growth in South Korea, Thailand, Indonesia and the other so-called Asian tigers. But having been blindsided by the recent market meltdown—some of his funds lost more than 50 per cent of their value after the crisis took hold in late 1997—he's careful not to take anything for granted. He's especially wary of investing in companies that cling to the quaint old ways of doing business—practices that include corruption, political payoffs and a general lack of regard for the rights of outside shareholders.

Over the past year, Mobius has cut the number of stocks in his portfolio by a third, from about 300 to 200. "We're reducing our number of stocks because, let's face it, we were all taken in by companies that had management that were intent on cheating shareholders," he explained during a whirlwind appearance in Canada. "There's still a lot of that out there, so we're now concentrating on those companies that we believe from experience are going to respect shareholder rights. And if we don't like what we see, we're going to vote with our feet and get out."

Coming from Mobius, that's no idle threat. He's not only one of the most experienced and respected fund managers in the Far East, he's also recently well-plugged in. He owns apartments in both Singapore and Hong Kong, but with a California corporate jet at his disposal he spends more than 200 days a year on the road, hopping across Asia, South America and Europe. A Boston native with a dead ringer for Yip Tseung, he regularly rubs shoulders with the developing world's elite—politicians, prime ministers, corporate bosses and rich but shady "entrepreneurs."

Mobius's job gives him a unique perspective on Asia's volatile stock markets. Right now, Western money is flood-

## Tigers with sharp teeth

ing back in and investors—those lucky enough not to have been repudied out in the crash—are reentering in short-term profits. South Korea's stock market index has climbed 78 per cent since the sun of the year, while the Indonesian market is up 55 per cent and Singapore's index has gained 54 per cent. Mobius's Timpson Emerging Markets Fund—which invests not just in Asia but in Latin America, Eastern Europe and southern Africa—is up 28 per cent so far this year.

Unfortunately, the very fact that foreign money is returning to Asian markets means there is less pressure on locals to stamp out corruption and reinstate key industries.

As an illustration of the problems that remain, Mobius points to a recent decision by the British sugar giant Tate and Lyle to locate a refinery in Vietnam. Authorities had promised the company a steady supply of sugar cane at stable prices, but when the refinery opened this year it found itself having to compete for supplies against a new state-owned sugar processor. A bidding war broke out and the price of cane shot up, rendering the plan unworkable. "The



Timpson's Mobius: once better, never shy

locals knew very well what was going to happen, but they wanted that investment," Mobius says. One of his funds had a similar experience recently when it financed the construction of a re-processing facility in Vietnam. "We expected all the farmers in the area to sell to us, but instead they sold to other people and prices started going up. When we saw that, we got out."

**On the positive side,** Mobius says there is a new generation of Western-educated business leaders in Asia who realize it is to their own benefit to adopt a more open, investor-friendly approach. At a conference on corporate governance in South Korea earlier this year, he was supposed to find himself seated next to powerful Indonesian banker James Ruddy, 42, a former Suharto crony who, with his father, had been implicated in U.S. campaign-finance scandals. "Ruddy said, 'Look, I realize we've had our problems, but as a family we're not going to be able to preserve our wealth unless we professionalize. And we know we have to pay attention to corporate governance because otherwise we're not going to be able to raise money from shareholders to expand.'"

That's the kind of talk Mobius likes to hear—a promise of reform motivated by naked self-interest.

# Getting tough with student loans

Ottawa's credit checks are creating controversy

**Amanda Reddick** is the first to admit that her credit record is far from exemplary. The 26-year-old's financial woes began eight years ago when she started using her Visa card to buy basic necessities and the occasional treat for her daughter Sherelle. In 1994, Reddick began studying at Saint Mary's University in Halifax, and to date, the single mother has managed to complete an ethics course towards a bachelor of arts in political science. She is desperate to continue, but at the moment, she has an invoice of \$1,500 from the university, a hefty bill at Nova Scotia Power, and a Visa bill hovering around \$2,000. Working as an instructor at the Options Work Activity Program in Halifax, with an annual salary of \$24,000, she has no hope of paying off her debt.

Last week, Reddick's options just became fewer. As of Aug. 1, four new applicants to the Federal Student Loan program who are 22 years and older will be turned away if, in the three years prior to applying, they have missed payments for three consecutive months on three separate debts, each totalling \$1,000 or more. "I'm stuck," says Reddick. "Without a BA, I can't apply to places that are paying the kind of money to pay this credit off."

Ottawa's decision to implement credit checks is controversial, in say the least. The Canada Student Loans Program, launched in 1964 to guarantee universal access to higher education, has evolved into one of the government's largest social initiatives. In 1995, 42,113 loans, valued at \$26.7 million, were handed out in the 1997-1998 academic year; 363,400 loans were awarded,



Reddick with Sherelle, little hope for the future

totalling \$1.61 billion. But as nations fret over unemployment, and students debt along with it, the major banks have been complaining about unacceptably high default rates. Historically, the federal government picked up the tab for students who failed to meet their payments. In the mid-1990s, the banks assumed this responsibility, and since then, lender loss has become a major sore point. Says Frances LeBlanc, executive assistant to the minister of Human Resources Development Canada: "We want to manage the funds properly."

But three provinces—Manitoba, Alberta and British Columbia—have decided not to run the federal credit checks during the current round of applications. In part, their decision arose from frustration over Ottawa's inability

to answer basic implementation questions. A week before the Aug. 1 deadline, Ottawa had yet to sign a deal with a subcontractor to undertake the credit screening. The appeals process remained equally vague: provinces were given the option to handle appeals on their own, or turn them back to Ottawa,

where civil servants would determine whether there were extenuating circumstances in making payments.

To date, five provincial student loan programs have reduced lender losses by running rapid credit checks. But in all but one of the provinces—namely New Brunswick—a student with poor credit is still given a loan, with the province acting as guarantor. And while there is no such backstop at the federal level, the banks clearly believe that the introduction of a credit test is an important step. Says Kelly Scott, product manager for the Royal Bank of Canada, "In lowering default, every lender benefits. The three-loan criterion is probably not a bad scoring point."

This kind of talk appeals mostly to many "it's the beginning of the end of universality," says Michael Conlon, national chairman of the Canadian Federation of Students. "They'll just continue to tighten up the criteria to serve the banks." Like Conlon, Andrew Perret, British Columbia's minister of advanced education, training and technology, is a staunch opponent of what he calls a "stratagem" move. "The best way to get someone out of default prison is to provide them access to an education," argues Perret. "Instead, the federal government throws away the key so they can't get out." For Reddick, whose ultimate goal is to earn a master's in social work, the key appears to be completely out of reach.

Sarah Schuchman

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## Music

# Rattling the decorum

An edgy string quartet  
shakes up chamber music

They have a reputation for wild, edgy concerts that would make a punk rocker proud, and a front man who could show country legend Steppen' Tom Connors a thing or two about footwork. Yet the St. Lawrence String Quartet is firmly rooted in chamber music. And with its passionate performances of classical and contemporary material, the Toronto group is breaking stereotypes—and winning in-

disseminated by spirited, emotional performances. Nuttall, in particular, stood out with his sudden shifts in his seat and his seemingly unconcerned face (singing). Some audience members, Schiffman admits, found it distracting. "We got a few letters from people saying, 'If your first violin doesn't get louder fitting underneath, I'm turning my seats tighter,'" he recalls. "But for us, Geoff's jumping around is a good thing. It's like our conductor and we play off his energy."

On its debut recording, on EMI Classics, *Schoenberg, String Quartet No. 1* &



Hoover, Nuttall, Schiffman and Robertson: spirited and emotional performances

ternational acclaim in the process. *Le Monde*, in Paris, has called the four musicians a "quartet of men," while *The New York Times* has raved about the "dangerous, unbridled" quality of their concert. Says second violinist Barry Schiffman: "String quartets come from a tradition steeped in decorum, playing in deadly tie rooms for people sipping cognac. We've never embraced that. We want to push the envelope as much as we can."

That willingness to take risks may have something to do with age. Along with Schiffman, the quartet's members—first violinist Geoff Nuttall, violinist Lesley Robertson and cellist Murray Hoover—are all in their early 30s. Formed in 1989 after meeting at the Bullitt Centre for the Arts, the group quickly developed a style

of their own. "I, the St. Lawrence String Quartet has retained much of that music energy. They play with an infectious intensity on the daring passages of Schoenberg's *Quartet No. 3 in A major* and with an unwavering confidence on his *Quartet No. 1 in A minor*. The quartet is now completing a tour of summer festivals across North America, before relocating to Palo Alto, Calif., where they will be ensemble-in-residence at Stanford University. "We are in a fantastic position where we can control our artistic life," says Schiffman. "If we want to play with 18th-century bows or throw ourselves into a new piece where we might be asked to wear costumes, we can do that. Anything's possible."

Nicholas Jennings

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# Comedians without a net

Improv comedy, long popular with live audiences, is crashing the TV mainstream

By Andrew Clark

On a miniature hockey rink in Montreal, two teams, one from Eastern Canada, one from the West, are locked in havoc: battle. But there's not a puck or skate in sight. That's because the rink is a stage and the "players" are comedians. They are competing at the World Improv Championships—where the ultimate goal is laughter. The three-day contest, part of the recent Just for Laughs Festival, features live-wired teams of comedians performing improvised scenes inspired by random suggestions. As the crowd chortles here, Vancouver's Dean Haglund, an *X-Files* cast regular who also does stand-up, confronts a four-armed monster played by two teammates. An extra challenge, the performers must act their scene as Shakespearean style. It's a weird comedy moment—no script, no cues—and 34-year-old Haglund rises to the occasion. He steps back and declares "Two hands or not two hands? That is the question." The gap wins him a chorus of applause.

These days, scripts are rare and wit is in. In the 1980s, stand-up comedy was the hot ticket; in the early 1990s, it was sketch comedy. Now, improv is crashing into the mainstream. One of the most popular forms, Thespians, in which teams compete by improvising before a panel of judges, is performed on every continent except Antarctica. In Canada, which has five official Thespian leagues, improv is especially popular with teenagers and university students. This year's High School Improv Games drew 1,200

fans to the finals in March in Ottawa. Despite a long-held belief that improv is a ratings killer, it is also making amends on U.S. network television. The half-hour-long *Whose Line Is It Anyway?* became a surprise ratings winner when ABC introduced it as a summer replacement last year. The series, which stars U.S. comedian Drew Carey and Canadian Ryan Stiles and Gaila Mockrie, draws one million viewers in Canada each week. In Quebec, the *League Nationale d'Improvisation* (National League League) is airing a 10th season on Quebec television. There are also TV improv shows in Italy, Sweden and Belgium. The Toronto-based The Comedy Network, which broadcasts the World Improv Championships, next

to launch a new improv show, *Not to Be Reported*, this fall. It is also planning a second season of *Improv Hours and Half*, among the Canadians duo the Dev's Advocates (Albert Howell and Andrew Corrie). Comedy Network vice-president Ed Robinson says it only makes sense to up into the genre. "It's hugely appealing to young viewers and it also works for the older demographic," he adds. "Kids and their parents can watch it together."

As comedy as a year ago, talk like that could seriously damage a North American television executive's career. "Television audiences aren't as forgiving as theatre audiences and for that reason improv on TV is a tough nut to crack," maintains Alexander, founder of Toronto's Second City and executive

producer of the 1977 to 1994 comedy series  *SCTV*. Though, because the qualities that make improv so compelling live—its celebration of chaos, the risk the performers might screw—make it a potential disaster on television. "You lose control," says 51-year-old Vancouver improviser Suzanne Agosti. "That's the exciting part." But it traditionally



World Improv Championships in action: comedians

worried television producers, who pay for the predictability of scripted comedy, which can be neatly packaged, re-marketed and given a laugh track if necessary. "I pitched *Attention* producers for 10 years," says Dan Patterson, the British cousin of *Whose Line Is It Anyway?* "They would get excited, but then they'd laugh off. It scared them."

The producers' apprehensions sprung



Carey, Martin and Stiles after his premiere. TV critics hated *Whose Line Is It Anyway?* as the sleeper hit of the summer

in part from improv's counterculture roots. In 1966, Keith Johnstone, an associate director with the London-based Royal Court Theatre, began experimenting with improvisational acting exercises. It was an attempt to revitalize the theatre by blending the popular appeal of wrestling with conventional acting. But the British establishment hated Johnstone's work. "The audience are like whipped dogs watching a bunch of untrained animals onstage," says Johnstone. "Improvisation was a calculated insult to normal values."

The "insult" hit Canada in the late 1970s. Johnstone, by then a professor at the University of Calgary, formed the Loose Moose Theatre, and in 1977 he created Thespians. At the same time, other forms of improvisation, such as the Improv Olympics, were taking shape. These styles were even closer to sporting events. They focused

judges awarding points and referees penalizing performers for obscenities or cheap jokes and the audience was encouraged to cheer or jeer—just like crowds at a hockey game. Johnstone credits the Canadian "enthusiasm for anything connected to sports" for improv's initial success. Of course, Canada already had a history of improvisation. Second City, the Toronto the-

atre company, had been using it in its shows since 1973. Alumni, including John Carey, Joe Flaherty and Andrew Martin, went on to star in the critically acclaimed *SCTV* series, which, in its early years, sometimes used script developed through improv.

Thespians quickly spread to the rest of Canada. Then in 1979, Johnstone published *Improv: Improvisation and the Theatre*. It became a bible for improvisers, who used it to form Thespian leagues around the world. In time, the leagues nurtured many talented comedians. The Kith in the Hall, whose TV series of the same name was a co-synopsis hit in the early 1990s, sprang from the merger of two 1980s Toronto Thespian teams: Mike Myers of *Scorched*, Ont., cut his teeth in London working with the improv troupe the Comedy Store Players.

In 1988, Patterson crafted improv into a television-friendly format in which the best does rapid during a two-hour live show were edited into a half-hour program. The snail, *Whose Line Is It Anyway?* became a cult hit on British TV and ran for 10 years. In 1998, he tried to take it to Hollywood. The producers he met with, however, wanted a happier American cast with celebrity buzz, such as Jerry Mc-

Carthy, who he declined the offer. Then, Drew Carey, star and producer of the popular ABC sitcom *The Drew Carey Show*—upped on by his co-star Stiles—decided to back a U.S. version of the show. Soon after his premiere, TV critics were hailing *Whose Line Is It Anyway?* as the sleeper hit of the summer. "Up until then, you never thought you could make a living from improv," says Mockrie. "Now, people are seeing it can be done."

Back in Montreal, Haglund and his West Coast teammates have done their job at the World Improv Championships. It has been a strange event. The recent have been pelted with rubber balloons (provided by the producers) and showered with adulation (some fans took photographs during the scene). As he says backstage and surveys his world victory, Haglund is already planning on taking improv one step further. He has an online Internet improv Web site in the works. Viewers plugged in around the world will be able to send chat suggestions to the comedians. Cyberspace, the actor hopes, will ensure that the immediacy and intimacy of improv survive. And with good reason, says Haglund. "It's a chance to create something with someone else—other than a baby." ■



## Red, white and golden Games

They're getting plenty of practice singing O Canada in Winnipeg. The host team was a hefty second in the medal standings at the end of the first week of the Pan-American Games, typically behind the United States but surprisingly in front of traditional powerhouse Cuba. That had Fidel Castro smoking the Cuban discus, angered by defections from his team, accused organizers of "sneaky" in an effort "to displace Cuba from the second position in order to benefit the host country."

Canadian spirits sagged when Games officials stripped the roller hockey team of its gold medal because goalkeeper Steve Veinra had taken three banned substances, including an anabolic steroid. But overall, last week's

standing was due to many great performances by the home team. Canadians who were expected to win usually did—including rowers and badminton players. And in tennis, Canada won its team gymnastics and baseball—a stranger against the United States, and an 8-1 rout of Cuba.

Among local heroes was rower Emma Robinson who, only four months after surgery to remove a malignant tumour from her thyroid, won the women's coxless pairs gold with Theresa Lake of Port Huron, B.C. But the best news for

home-country fans was that, a year away from the 2000 Summer Olympics in Sydney, Australia, Canadian athletes appear to be sounding fit to form



Tanya Dubois (left) delighted her home town fans by winning the 500-metre triathlon. Emma Robinson (left) and Robinson triumphed on Lake Mendocino, and Sheron Donnelly (below) of Orleans, Ont., conquered the grueling triathlon.



Emma Robinson (right) won gold and Theresa Lake (left) won bronze in 500-metre triathlon.



A roller hockey drug scandal mars Canada's winning week



The basketball team posted remarkable victories (top). Garry Sawchenko of Montreal won gold in 58 kg freestyle wrestling (above). Yvonne Trinch of Cambridge, Ont. (left), won the women's narrow boat and floor exercise and led Canada in the overall team championship.



Allan Fotheringham

## An English country wedding

So, you see, it is 1996 and Gillian Johnson, a writer and dramatist of children's books, is at Toccoa Harbourfront's authors' festival because a sister has told her about Nicholas Shakespeare.

Nicholas Shakespeare, direct descendant of himself, former literary editor of London's *Daily Telegraph*, is doing a reading and signing autographs. Something clicks. "Who is that woman?" he asks the CBC's Shilah Rogers, who is doing an interview.

Later, they connect by phone. Gillian: "Would you like a cup of tea?" Shakespeare: "Are you the girl in the skirt?" The promising young writer/dramatist is six feet tall. She is a former champion speed skater. Her skirt does not cover much of those six feet.

By now it is late in the evening. Nicholas insists the admiral over to his hotel. Gillian, a proper girl, says, "No, I mean a cup of tea tomorrow." They meet, they have a cup of tea.

So, you see, it is now 1999. Nicholas Shakespeare has just published his biography of Bruce Chatwin, after eight years of research. Chatwin, a lyrical travel writer, is a cult figure in Britain. He has died of AIDS, after concealing his illness from his wife.

The reviews are great. Bluntly, they conclude that the author was more honest than his subject. The *Times* of London, excepted huge chunks. *The Globe* and *Mad* give it a whole page. As of last week, the book was in No. 6 on the *Mail* best-seller list. It will be published in the U.S. next year.

We are now at All Saints Church in Sutton Marden, out on the Windsor Downs, two hours southwest of London, out past Hatfield, Hemel Hempstead, and Hemphel (where hurricanes hardly blow). The stone church, surrounded by greenness and beauty, is older than God.

This is Thomas Hardy country, every village a postcard, every hedge-row met equating a blood when two suitors meet when only one can marry. This is the ancient Wessex, revived when the Good Queen Bess II gave her married-off Edith the title of Duke of Winton. At The Greenacre Arms in Hinton, best food within miles, the breakfast special celebrates Purridge with Whiskey.

We are now at the wedding reception, since 24 has gone through the heart-stopping, jelly-fingers, then to an ex-

terior. The bride's sister who is a renowned Toronto gynecologist is here. The bride's sister who is a Victorian psychologist is here.

The bride's sister who is a member of the Canadian Senate is here. All four Icelandic aunts, who are taller than God, went out to visit nearby Stonehenge and found out, to their surprise, that they were taller than their rocks.

A bride's brother, former head of Special Olympics in Montreal, is here. A bride's brother, retired from being the horizon hostess (a government consulting employer in Ottawa, is here).

The father of Will Shakespeare—who himself expired in 1616 just before Coonwell crumbled this wedding—was a glove and steel dealer named John Shakespeare.

The father of Nicholas Shakespeare is John Shakespeare, whose lineage can be traced all the way back to himself. He is a delightful character, with all the mannerisms of Dorey Kays, a current diplomat who has named the world from Phoenix, Ohio, to Singapore to Rio—your guess as to what street killed me!—so British mannerisms in Paris and then Moscow.

Younger brother Sebastian writes the celebrity gossip column for the *Evening Standard*. How can you not be a success on Fleet Street with a byline like Sebastian Shakespeare?

There are wonderful rumors—rumors that could be only among the 135 guests at an English wedding—Dreadful Bayliff, Kookoo Macleod, Mungus Pugh and Hanna Terman, not to mention Jennifer Lennon-Terman and Anne Marie Howard-Hughes.

As an unusual brilliant British sensible evening shines down on the maquette on the lawn below the castle ruins, the hyperlaminated best man talks about "Thomas's favorite child." Nicholas is disappointed, she then promises, neither was being nullified by previous marriage.

They are fleeing to Iceland on honeymoon, then to an extended stay in Tasmania. And so ends the fairytale.



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\*News Week, July 27/28, 2000. \*\*Wired Auto World, June 1998.



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